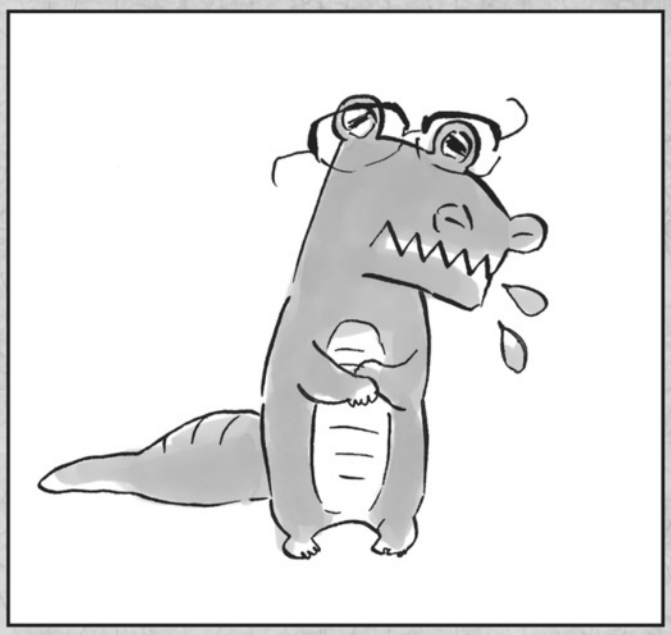

KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

Hi, I'm Gotouge! Volume 17 is out! The fighting is gradually getting more fierce. When a character you like gets injured, you feel bad for them, so reading can be grueling and you may not really want to do it, but the manga is set in a world where they have to engage in deadly combat, so I'm sorry. I'll dedicate myself to it until the end, so please keep reading.

DEMON SLAYER

KIMETSU NO YAIBA

17

SUCCESSORS

KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

DEMON SLAYER:
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
VOLUME 17
Shonen Jump Edition

Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA is rated T for Teen and recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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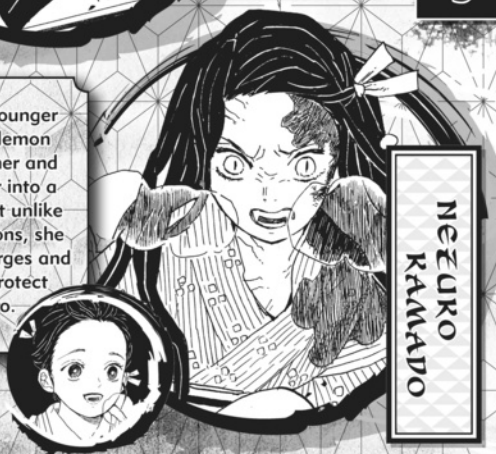
CHARACTERS

TANJIRO KAMADO

A kind boy who saved his sister when the rest of his family was killed. Now he seeks revenge. He can smell the scent of demons and his opponents' weaknesses.



NEZUKO KAMADO

Tanjiro's younger sister. A demon attacked her and turned her into a demon. But unlike other demons, she fights her urges and tries to protect Tanjiro.

GYOMEI HIMEJIMA

Stone Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. He is always clasping a rosary and reciting a Buddhist prayer.

INOSUKE HASHIBIRA

He also went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He wears the pelt of a wild boar and is very belligerent.

ZENITSU AGATSUMA

He went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He's usually cowardly, but when he falls asleep, his true power comes out.

GIYU TOMIOKA

The Hashira who invited Tanjiro to join the Demon Slayer Corps. He has always cared about Tanjiro.

KANAO TSUYURI

Successor to Shinobu. She doesn't talk much and has difficulty making any kind of decision by herself.

SHINOBU KOCHO

Another Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. Familiar with pharmacology, she is a swordswoman who has created a poison that kills demons.

MUZAN KIBUTSUJI

Kibutsuji turned Nezuko into a demon. He is Tanjiro's enemy and hides his nature in order to live among human beings.

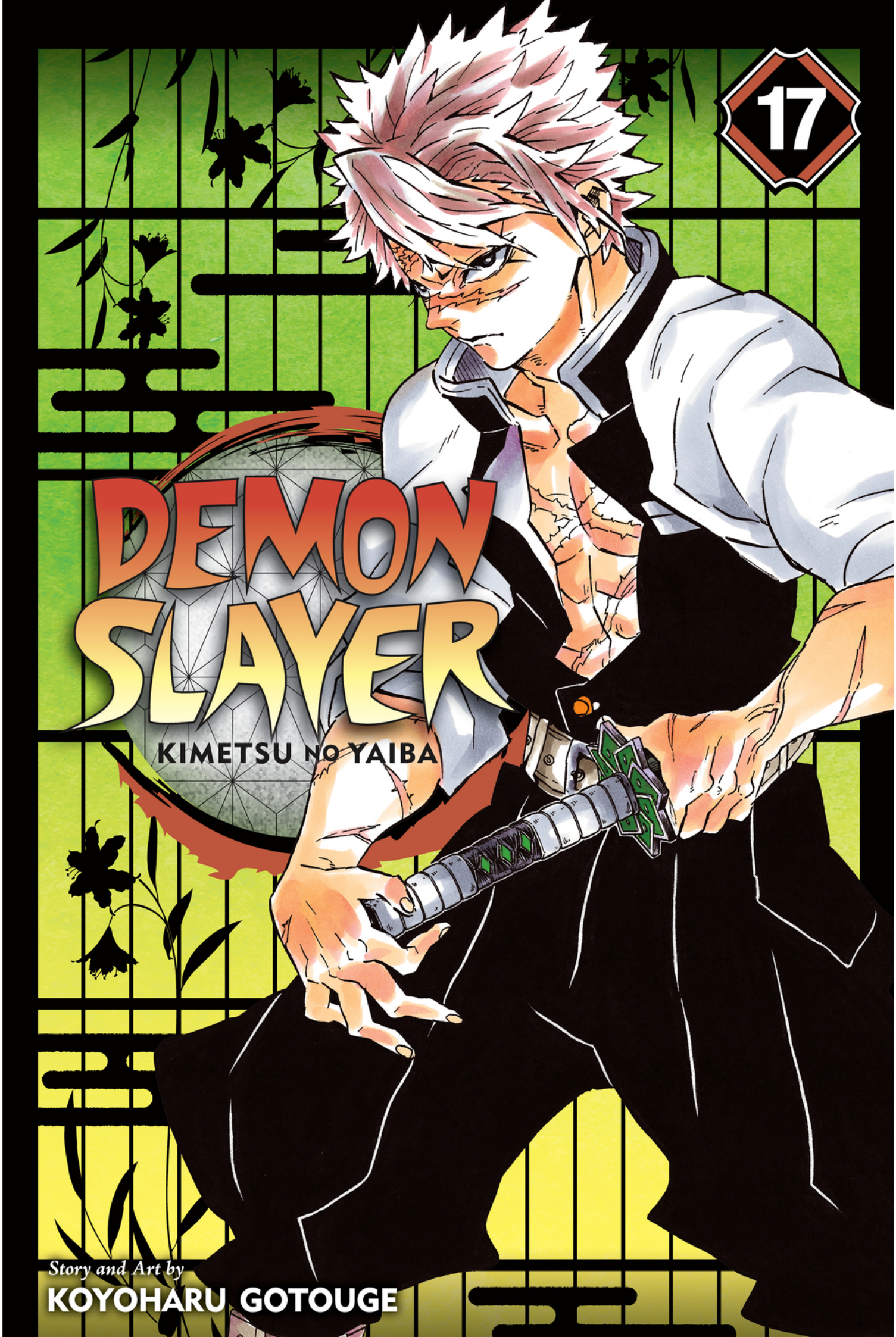
DOMA: UPPER RANK 2

The demon who killed Shinobu Kocho's older sister Kanae and founded the Eternal Paradise Faith.

STORY

In Taisho-Era Japan, young Tanjiro makes a living selling charcoal. One day, demons kill his family and turn his younger sister Nezuko into a demon. Tanjiro and Nezuko set out to find a way to return Nezuko to human form and defeat Kibutsuji, the demon who killed their family!

After joining the Demon Slayer Corps, Tanjiro meets Tamayo and Yushiro—demons who oppose Kibutsuji—who provide a clue to how Nezuko may regain her humanity. Then, during a fierce battle against the Upper Rank 6 demon, Nezuko manifests the ability to withstand sunlight. When he learns of this, Muzan Kibutsuji attacks Ubuyashiki Mansion, but Kagaya Ubuyashiki used himself as bait in an explosive trap! The Demon Slayers plunge into Infinity Castle in pursuit. Inside, the Insect Hashira Shinobu clashes with Doma—the demon who killed her older sister!!


17
DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

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DEMON SLAYER
KIMETSU NO YAIBA

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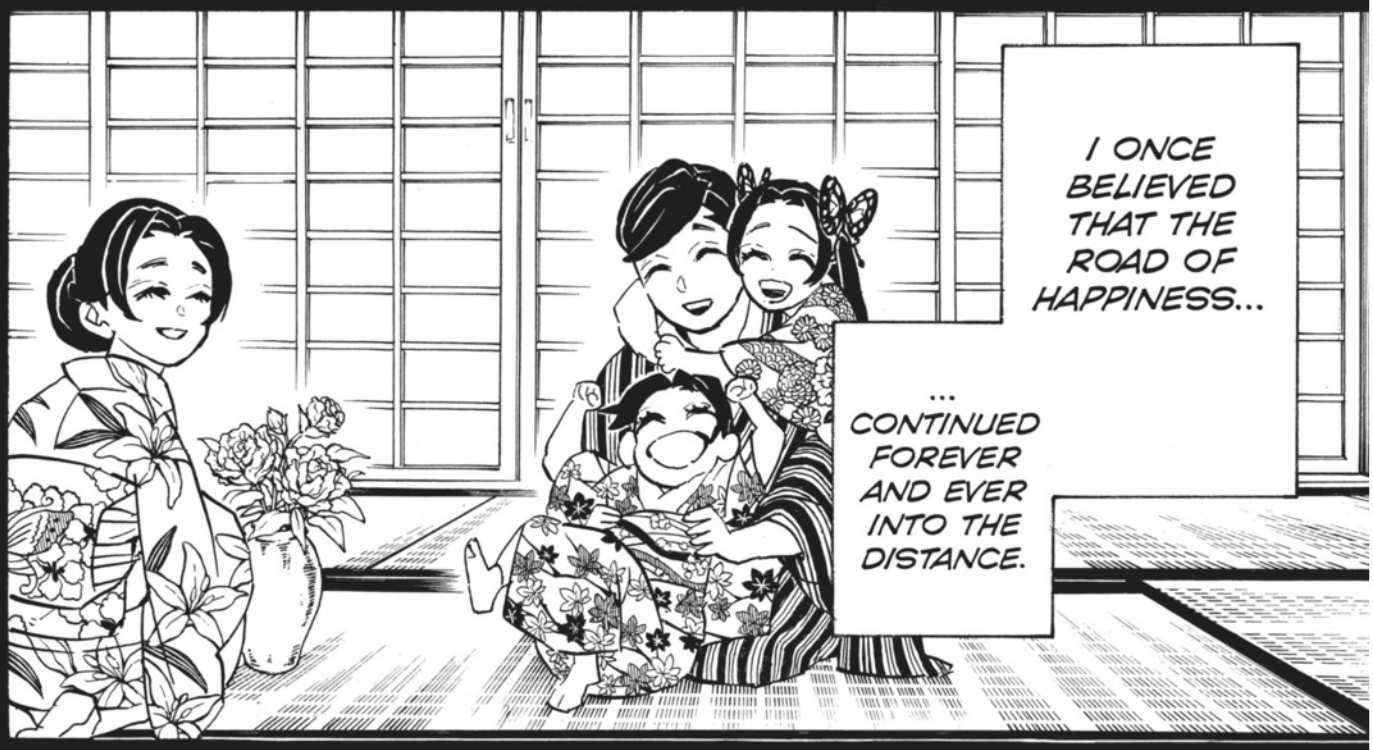
SUCCESSORS

CHAPTER 143: WRATH

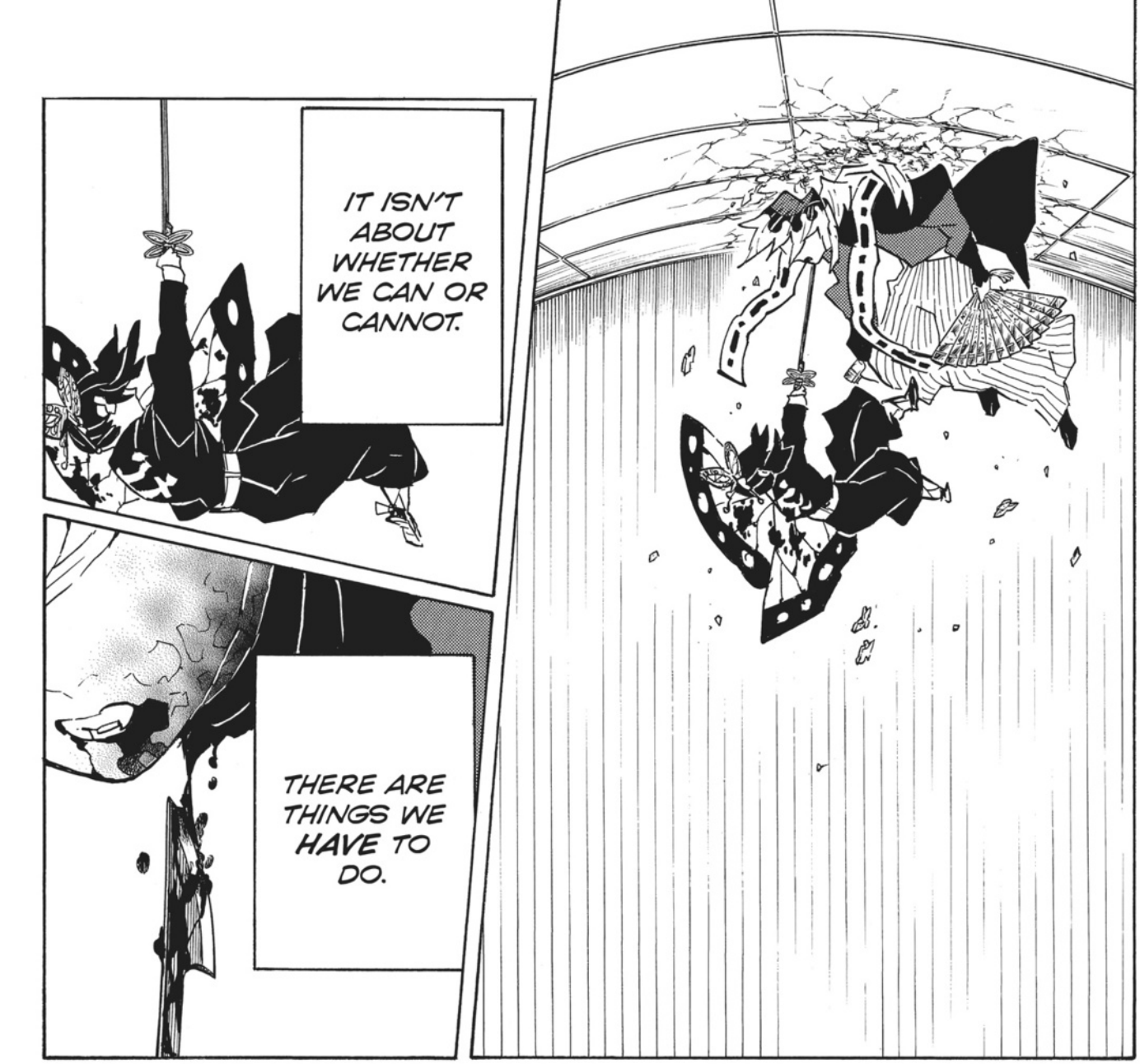

I ONCE BELIEVED THAT THE ROAD OF HAPPINESS...
... CONTINUED FOREVER AND EVER INTO THE DISTANCE.

...THAT HAPPINESS LIES ATOP A THIN SHEET OF GLASS.
WHEN IT WAS DESTROYED, I REALIZED FOR THE FIRST TIME...

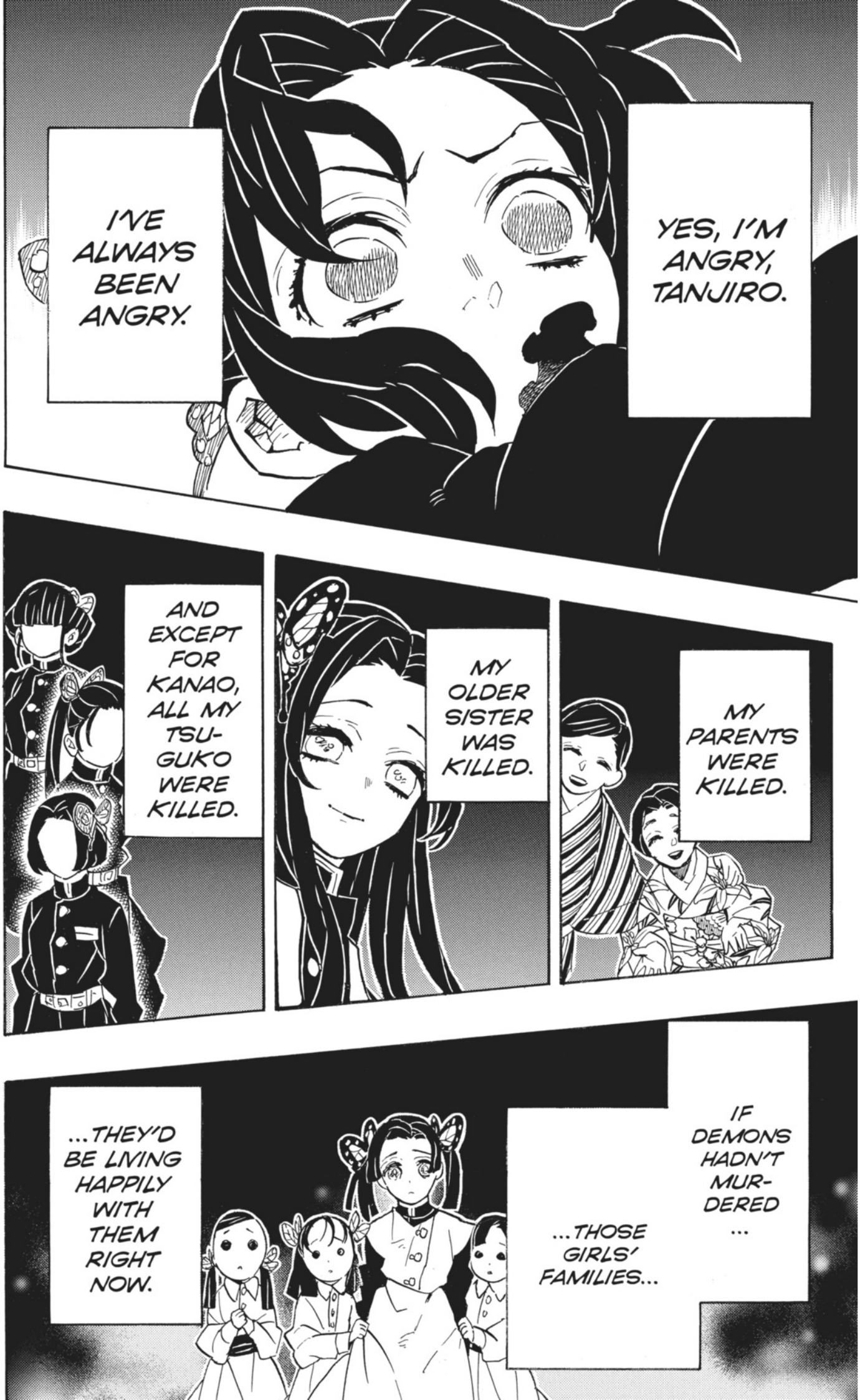
...THERE ARE THOSE WHOSE HAPPINESS HASN'T YET BEEN DESTROYED.
AND JUST AS WE WERE SAVED...

SO I WANTED TO GET STRONGER ...
...AND PROTECT THEM.
THAT'S WHAT WE PROMISED EACH OTHER.
LET'S DEFEAT AS MANY DEMONS AS POSSIBLE.
TO-GETH-ER.
WE WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE...
... EXPERIENCE WHAT WE WENT THROUGH.

EVEN IF WE'RE WEAK...
...AND CAN'T CUT OFF DEMONS' HEADS...
...IF WE DEFEAT ONE DEMON, WE CAN SAVE DOZENS OF PEOPLE.
AND IF WE DEFEAT AN UPPER-RANK KIZUKI, WE CAN SAVE HUNDREDS.


IT ISN'T ABOUT WHETHER WE CAN OR CANNOT.
THERE ARE THINGS WE HAVE TO DO.

ARE YOU ANGRY?


I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ANGRY.
YES, I'M ANGRY, TANJIRO.
AND EXCEPT FOR KANAO, ALL MY TSU-GUKO WERE KILLED.
MY OLDER SISTER WAS KILLED.
MY PARENTS WERE KILLED.
...THEY'D BE LIVING HAPPILY WITH THEM RIGHT NOW.
...THOSE GIRLS' FAMILIES...
IF DEMONS HADN'T MUR-DERED ...

WHY DOESN'T POISON WORK ON THIS GUY?
IT MAKES ME FURIOUS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
BASTARD!
WHY
GH
MP

GRAB
YOU'VE TRIED SO HARD!
SO ADMIRABLE !!

YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR OLDER SISTER'S TALENT, BUT YOU'VE DONE WELL AS A DEMON HUNTER!
IT'S A MIRACLE YOU AREN'T DEAD YET!
I'M IMPRESSED !!
SUCH A WEAK GIRL DOING SO MUCH!
THIS IS BOTH THE FOLLY AND WONDER OF HUMANITY!
IT'S ALL POINTLESS, YOU SEE. BUT YOU'RE STUPID ENOUGH TO KEEP TRYING!
ANY LAST WORDS? I'M LISTENING.
LET US LIVE TOGETHER FOR ETERNITY!
YOU ARE CERTAINLY WORTH EATING!

GO TO HELL!
BAM

?!
MASTER!!

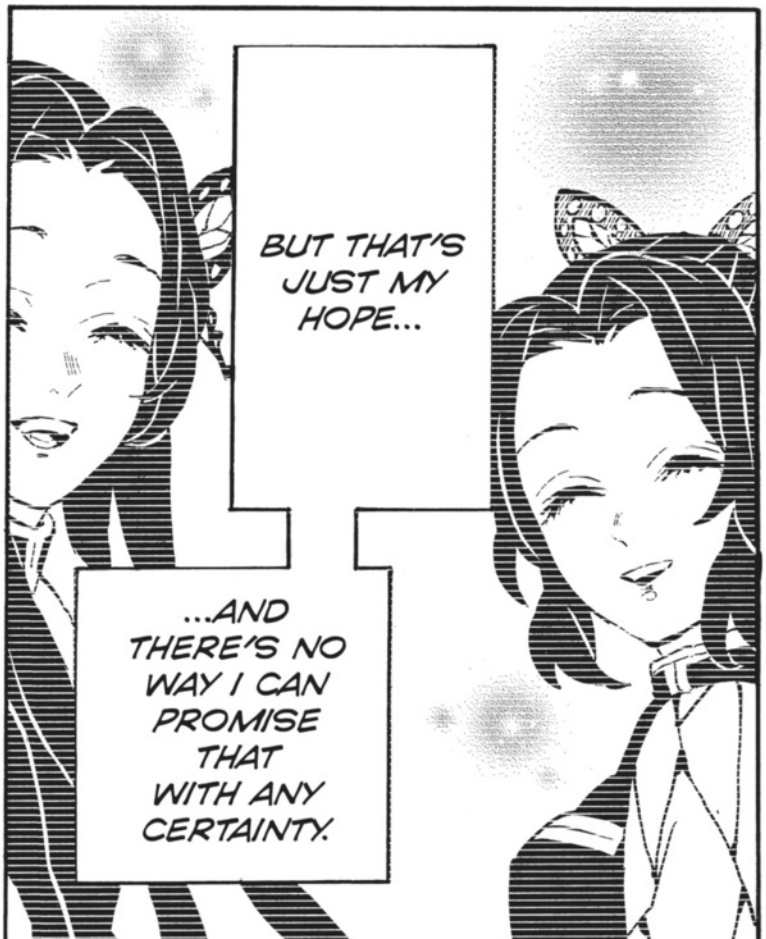
ドン

KLANG
WAAAAAH!

FLOWER BREATHING
FOURTH FORM:
CRIMSON HANAGOROMO!
THMP
!!

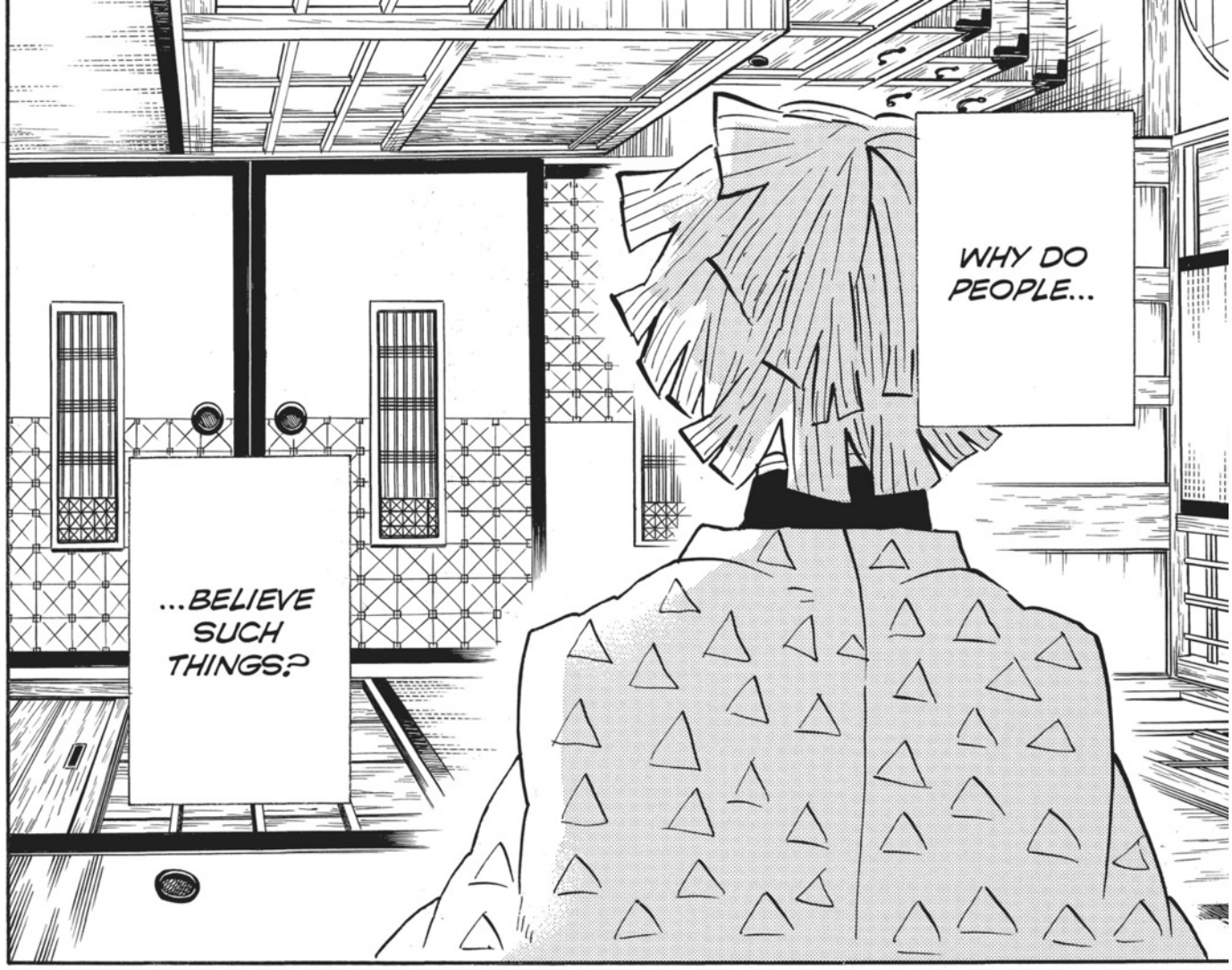
TMP
WHOA... THAT'S DANGEROUS!
W
DON'T TRY TO CUT ME WHEN I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ABSORBING SOMEONE!

SUCH FINE FEASTS KEEP SHOWING UP, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
ANYWAY, TONIGHT IS A GOOD NIGHT.


BUT THAT'S JUST MY HOPE...
...AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN PROMISE THAT WITH ANY CERTAINTY.

SOMEHOW I FEEL THE PEOPLE I CARE FOR AND THOSE IMPORTANT TO ME...
...WILL STILL BE ALIVE TOMORROW.

TWITCH
HUFF
TRMBL
HUFF
TRMBL TWITCH
HM?
YOU DON'T ACCEPT MY CHALLENGE?
IS THAT BECAUSE THIS GIRL SIGNALED TO YOU WITH HER HANDS?
DID SHE TELL YOU ABOUT MY POWERS OR SOMETHING?
IT JUST TOOK A MOMENT. IMPRESSIVE.
SHE TRIES HARD DESPITE THE FUTILITY.
PAT PAT
FWOO


WHY DO PEOPLE...
...BELIEVE SUCH THINGS?

YOU'RE THERE, RIGHT? COME ON OUT.
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE.
THAT IS NO WAY TO SPEAK...
SHUF
...TO YOUR SENIOR.
CLAK
YOU LOOK A LITTLE BETTER THAN WHEN I LAST SAW YOU, BUT...

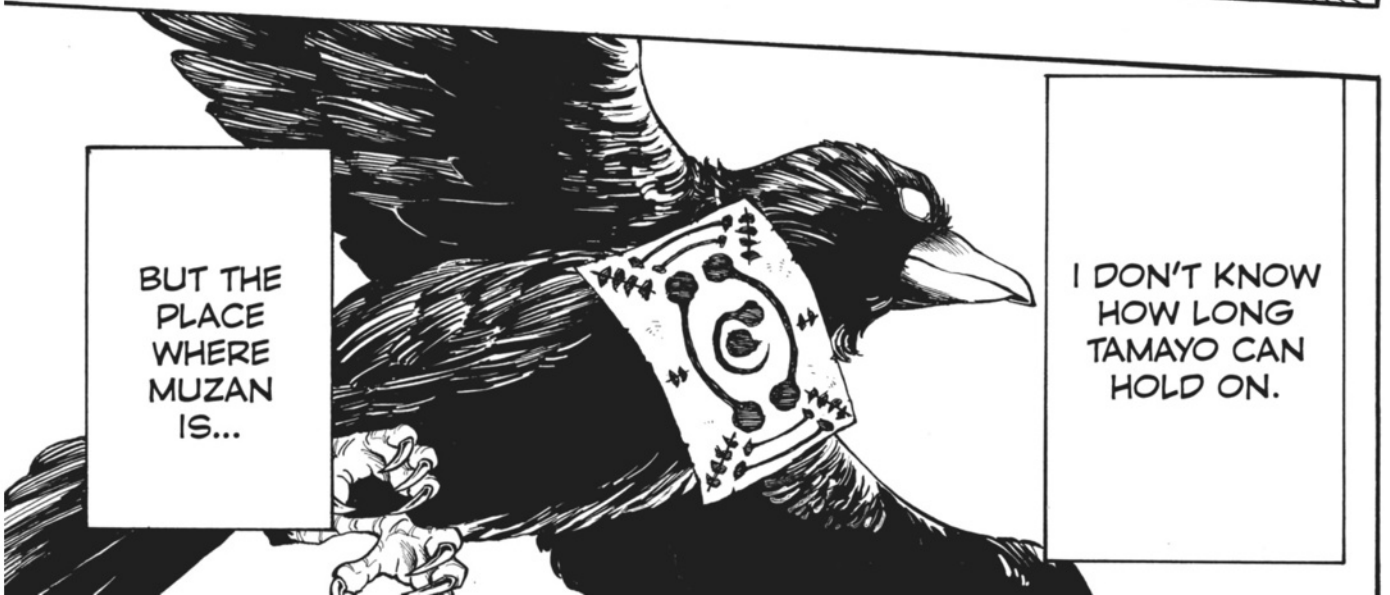
...AS USUAL, YOU'RE STILL SHABBY.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, ZENITSU.
KAI-GAKU...
NOW THAT YOU'VE BECOME A DEMON...
...I NO LONGER THINK OF YOU AS A MY SENIOR.

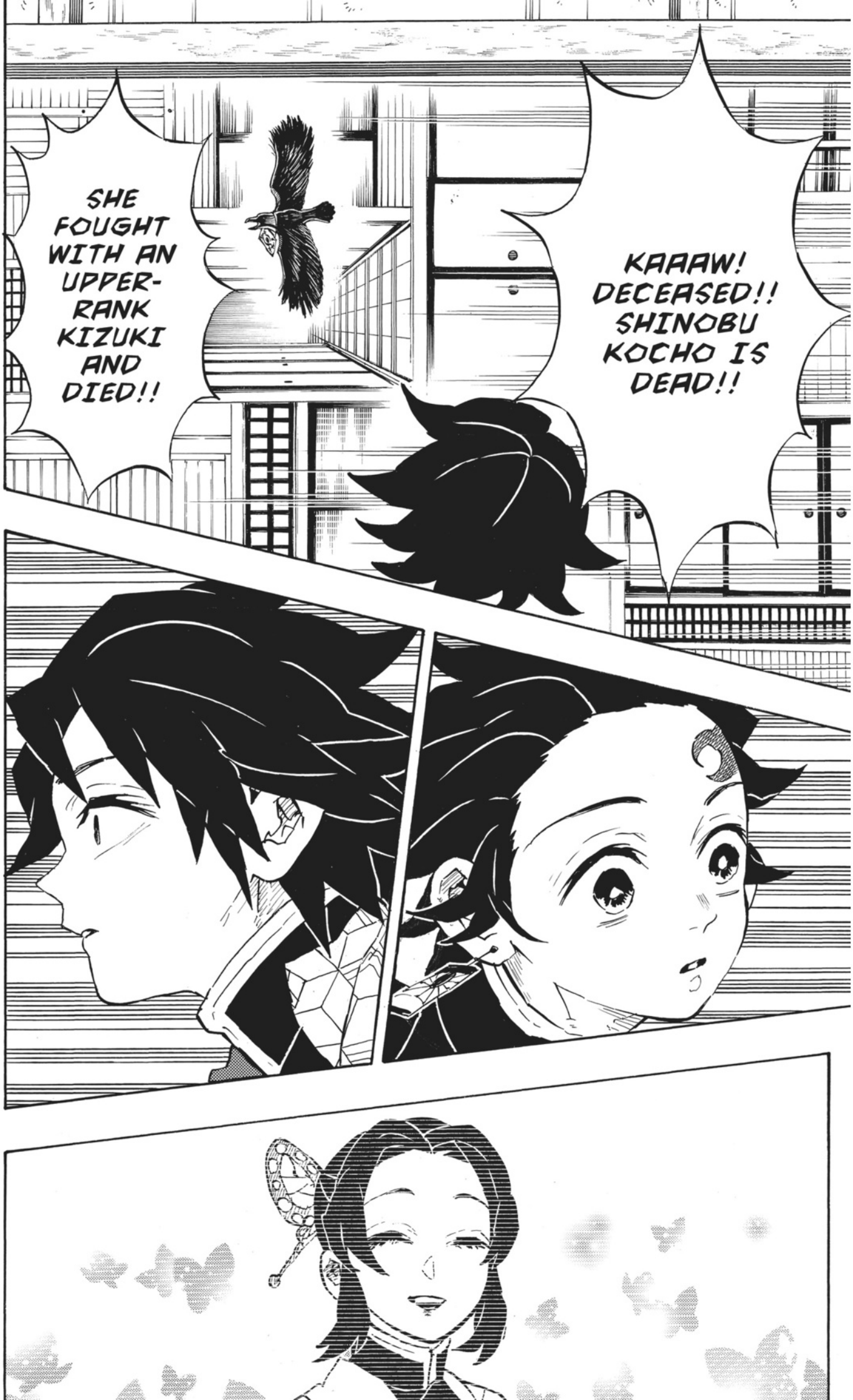
CHAPTER 144: SUCCESSORS

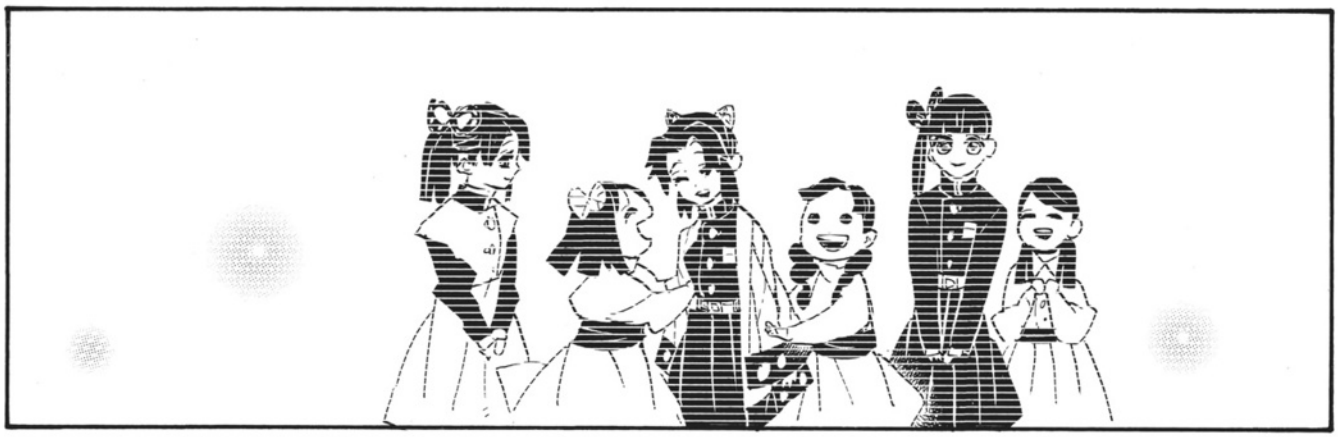
THUNK
GRAB
HUP
TWIP

GOT IT!!
STAY SHARP !!

I'VE GOT TO TRY TO JOIN THE OTHER CORPS MEMBERS AND GET TO MUZAN.
IT'S TRYING TO SEPARATE ME FROM GIYU.
THIS BUILDING THROBS AS IF IT WERE ALIVE.

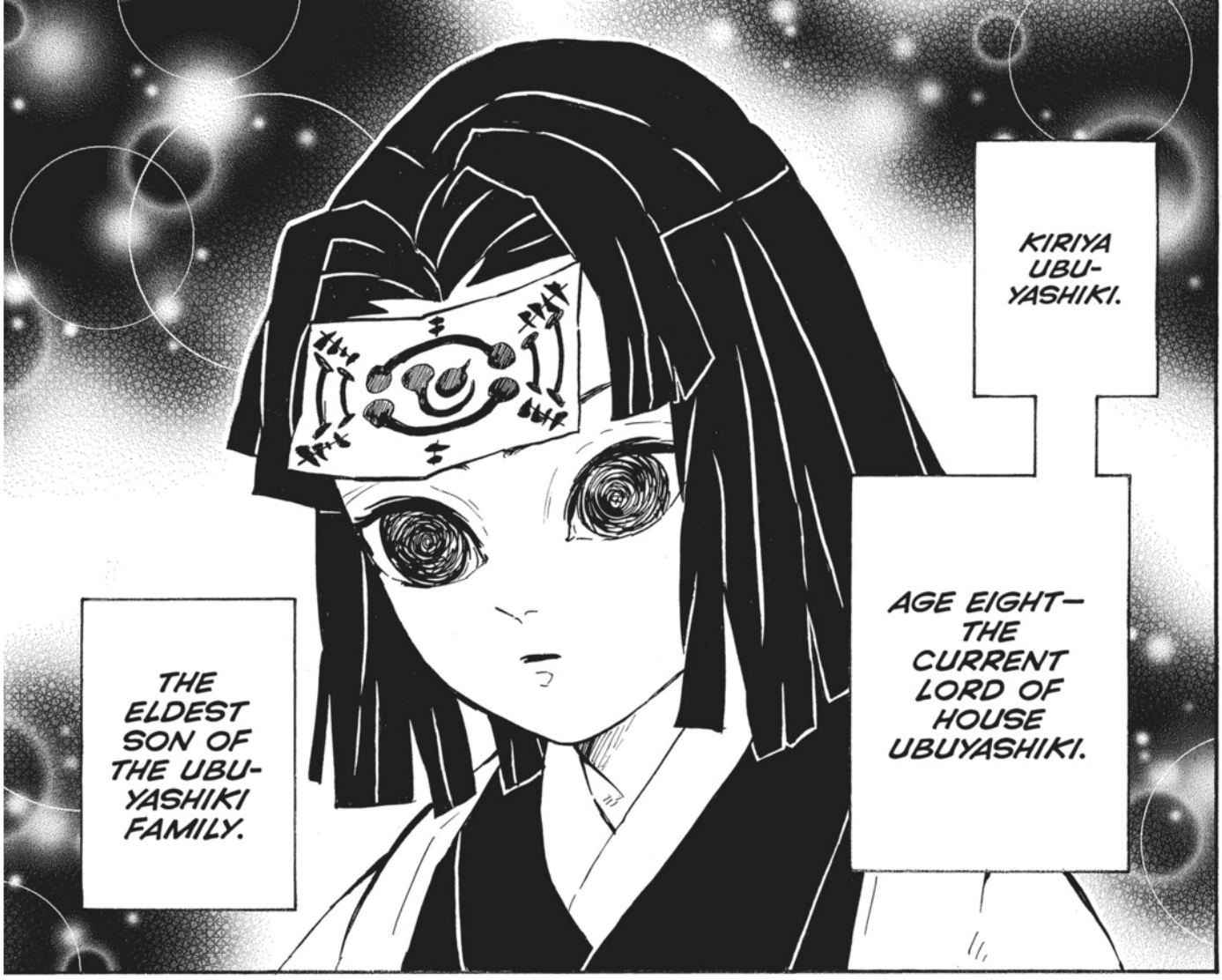

BUT THE PLACE WHERE MUZAN IS...
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG TAMAYO CAN HOLD ON.

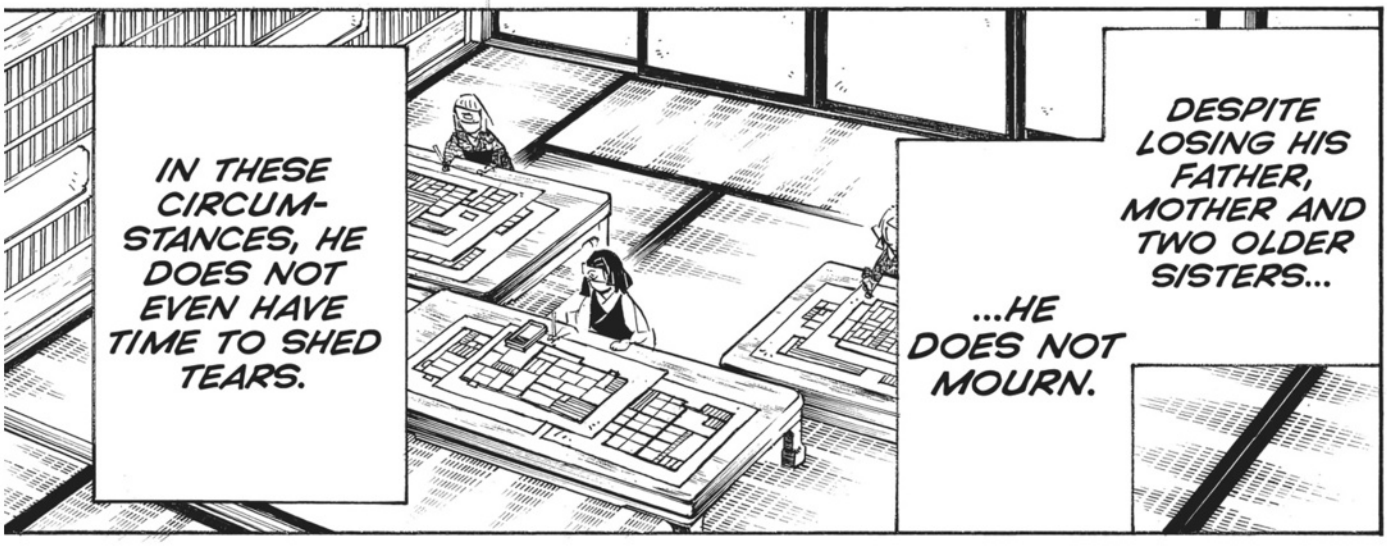

SHE FOUGHT WITH AN UPPER-RANK KIZUKI AND DIED!!
KAAAW! DECEASED!! SHINOBU KOCHO IS DEAD!!

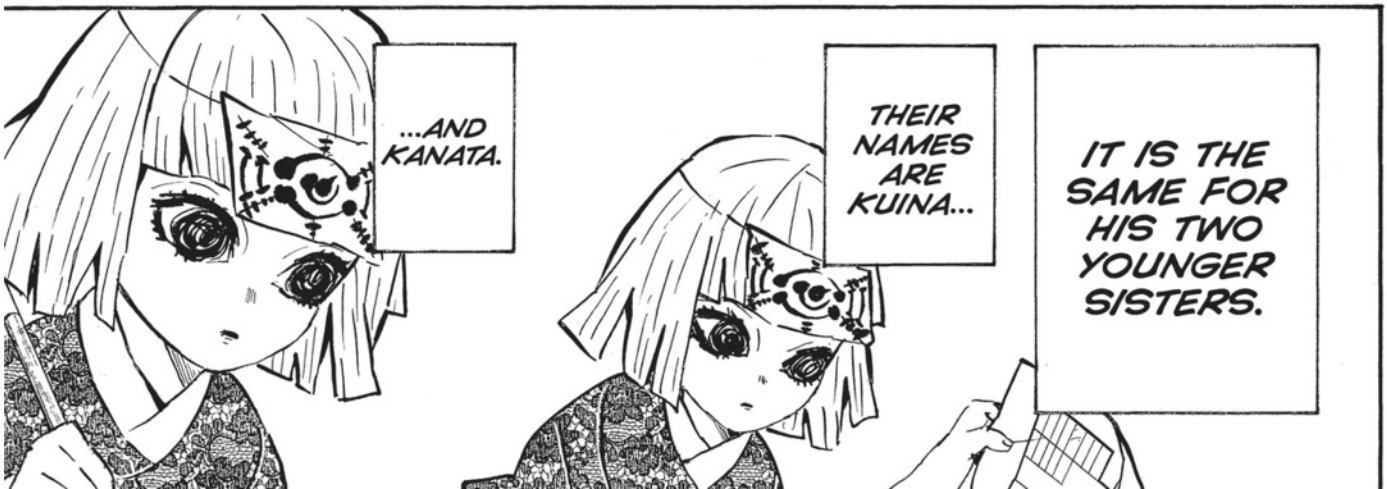


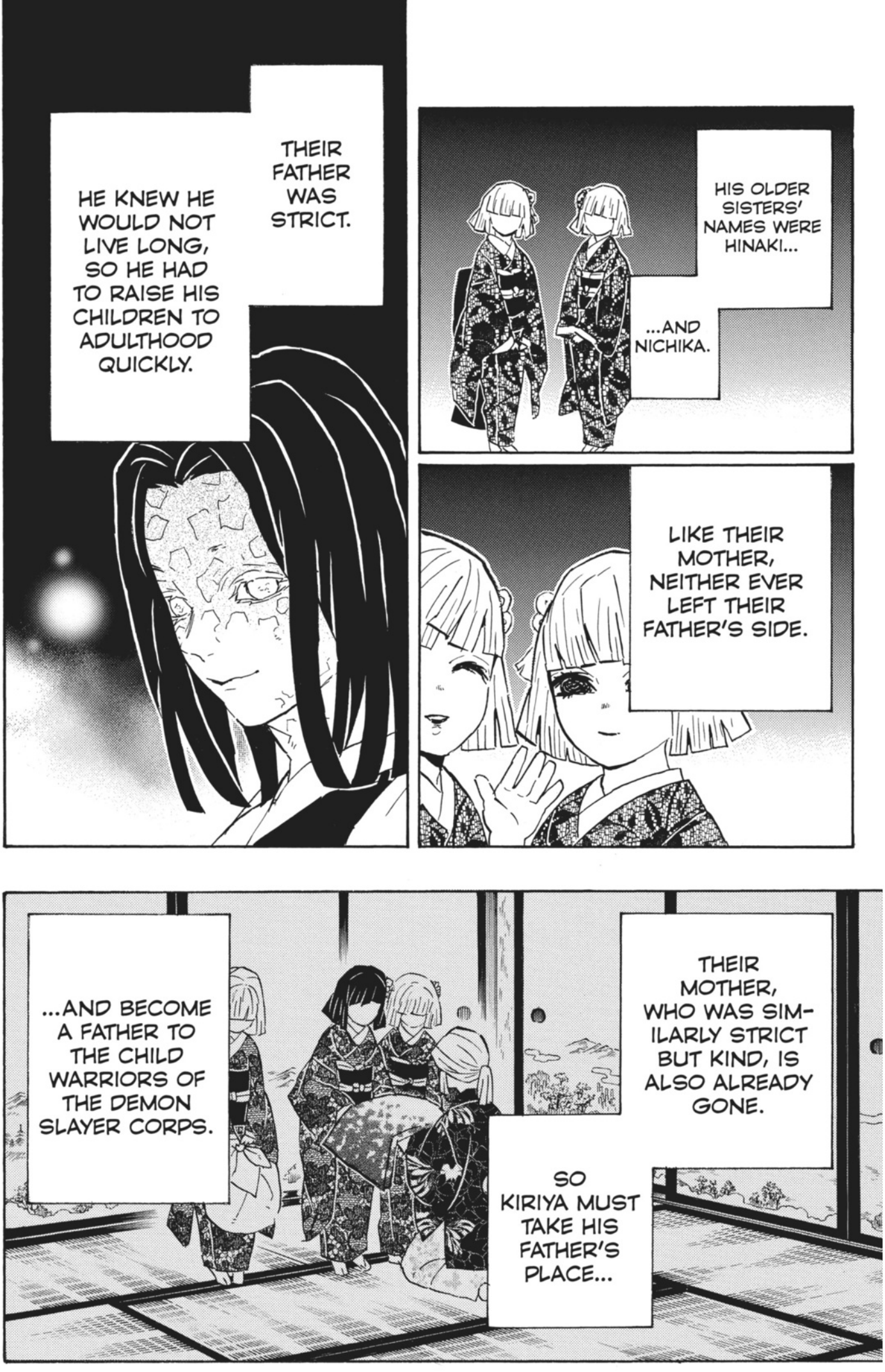
KAAAW!
THE CROW...
WHAT'S THAT PAPER ON ITS NECK?
THE MESSAGE CAME UNUSUALLY FAST!
KAW!

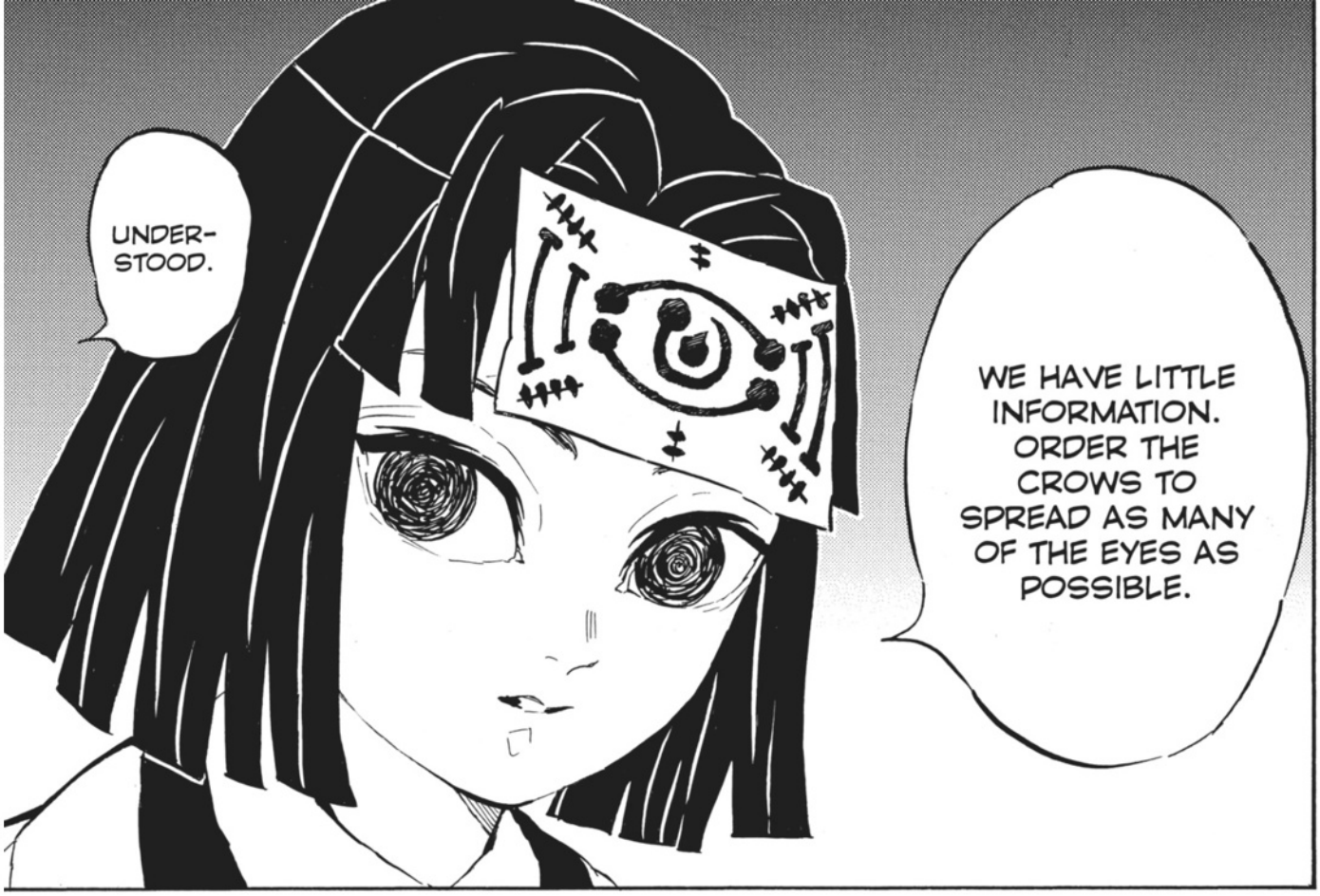
SHINOBU IS DEAD.
HAVE THE CROWS THAT BORROWED YUSHIRO'S EYES REACHED HALF OF THEM YET?
NO.
IS SHINOBU THE ONLY ONE TO CONFRONT AN UPPER-RANK KIZUKI?
THE OTHER HASHIRA ARE STILL ALIVE.
NOT YET.
YES.


KIRIYA UBU-YASHIKI.
AGE EIGHT— THE CURRENT LORD OF HOUSE UBUYASHIKI.
THE ELDEST SON OF THE UBU-YASHIKI FAMILY.

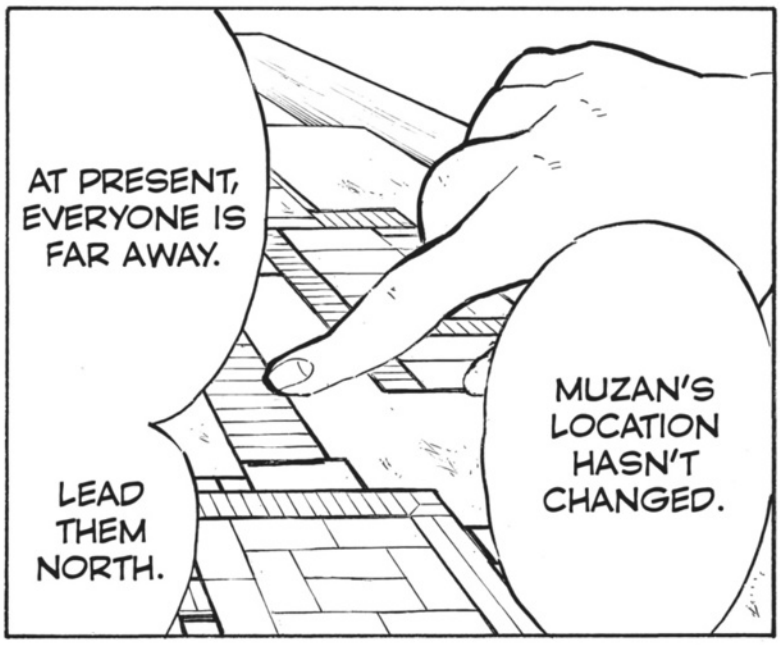

IN THESE CIRCUM-STANCES, HE DOES NOT EVEN HAVE TIME TO SHED TEARS.
DESPITE LOSING HIS FATHER, MOTHER AND TWO OLDER SISTERS...
...HE DOES NOT MOURN.


...AND KANATA.
THEIR NAMES ARE KUINA...
IT IS THE SAME FOR HIS TWO YOUNGER SISTERS.

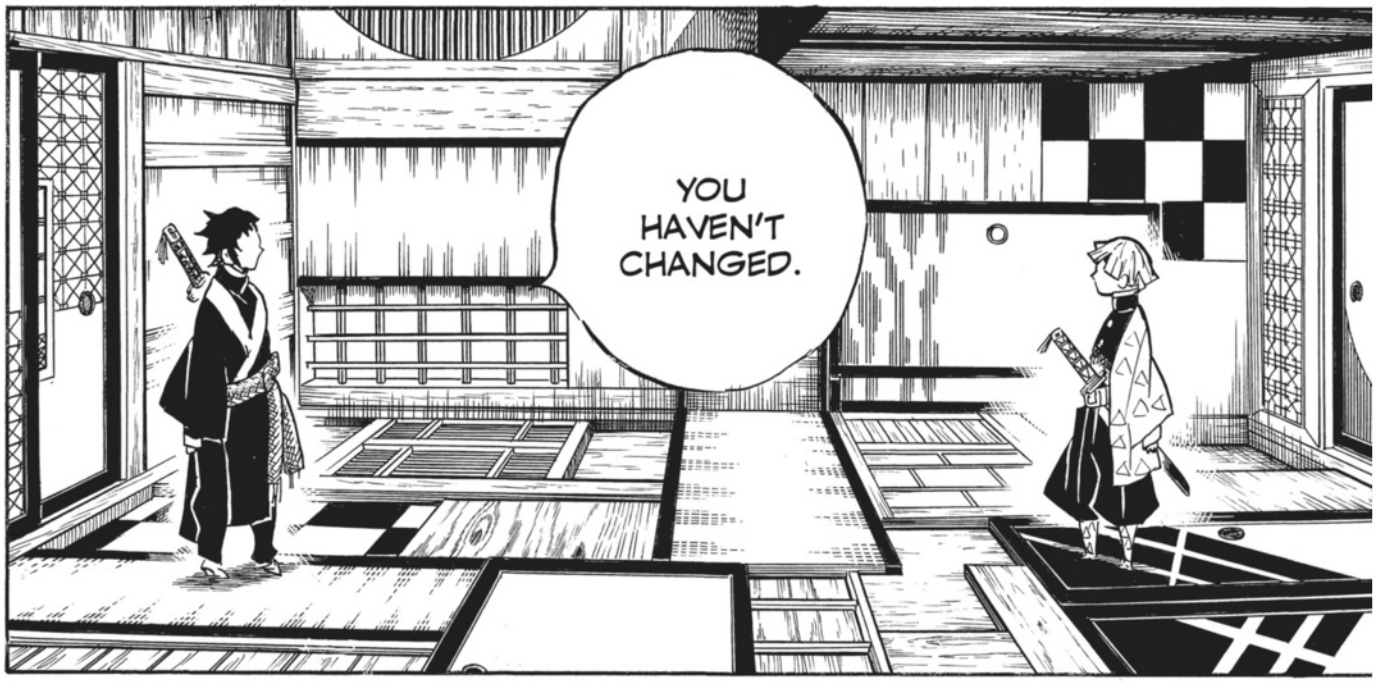

THEIR FATHER WAS STRICT.
HE KNEW HE WOULD NOT LIVE LONG, SO HE HAD TO RAISE HIS CHILDREN TO ADULTHOOD QUICKLY.
HIS OLDER SISTERS' NAMES WERE HINAKI...
...AND NICHIKA.
LIKE THEIR MOTHER, NEITHER EVER LEFT THEIR FATHER'S SIDE.
...AND BECOME A FATHER TO THE CHILD WARRIORS OF THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS.
THEIR MOTHER, WHO WAS SIMILARLY STRICT BUT KIND, IS ALSO ALREADY GONE.
SO KIRIYA MUST TAKE HIS FATHER'S PLACE...


UNDER-
STOOD.
WE HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION. ORDER THE CROWS TO SPREAD AS MANY OF THE EYES AS POSSIBLE.

KANAO AND...
THE ONES CONFRONT-ING THE KIZUKI ARE... I SEE...

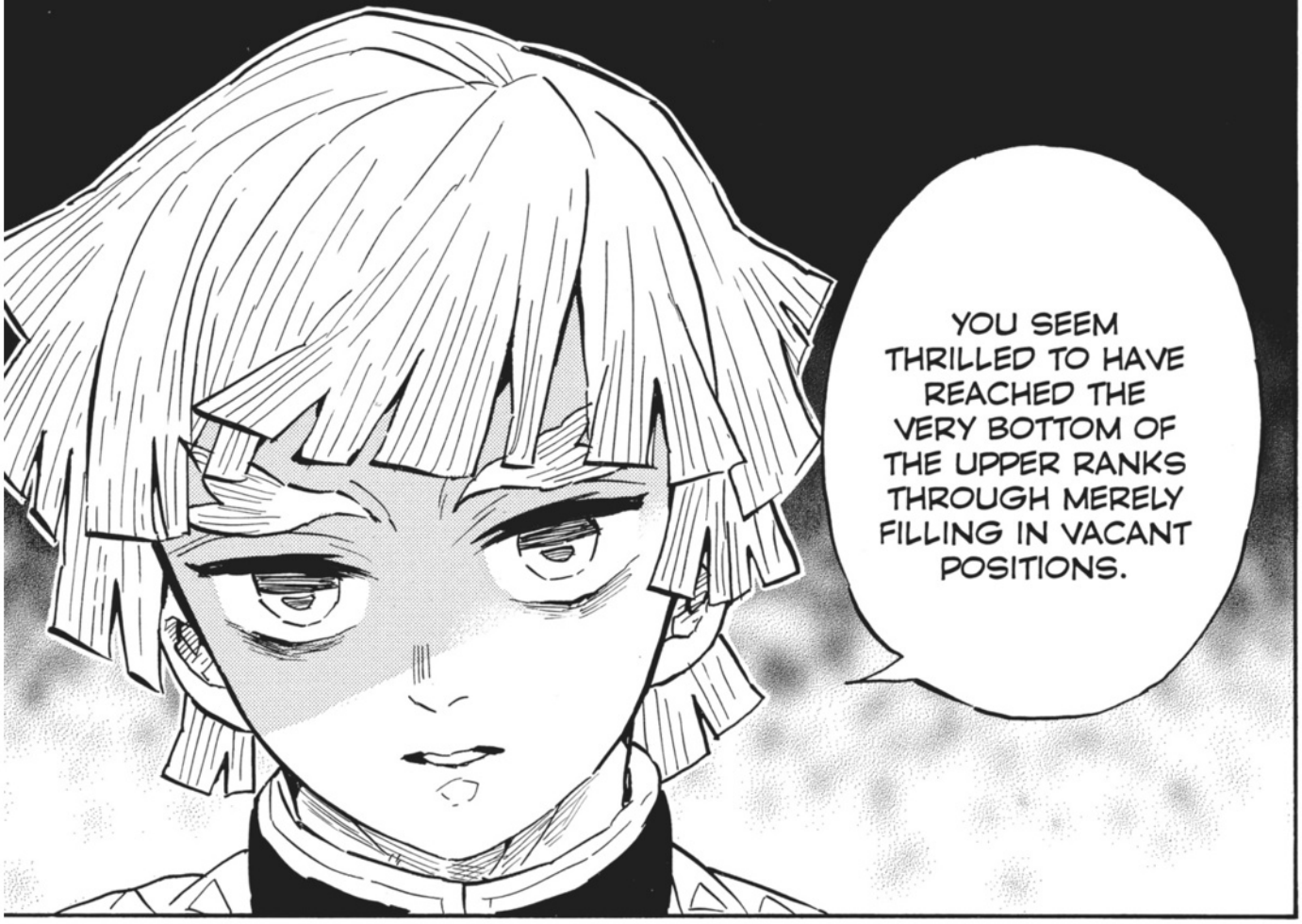

AT PRESENT, EVERYONE IS FAR AWAY.
LEAD THEM NORTH.
MUZAN'S LOCATION HASN'T CHANGED.

HE HAS ENCOUNTERED UPPER RANK 6.
...AGATSUMA.


YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.

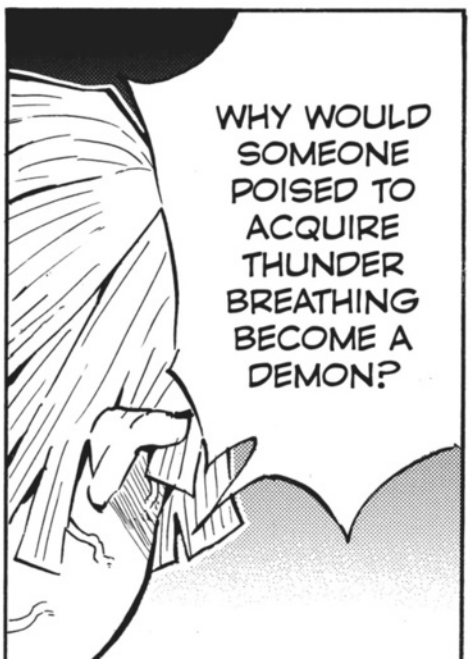
HUH? HEY, ZENITSU.
HAVE YOU BECOME A HASHIRA?
CAN YOU USE ANYTHING BESIDES THE FIRST FORM?

YOU'RE STILL A SHABBY...
...LITTLE RUNT.
STILL WEAK.


YOU SEEM THRILLED TO HAVE REACHED THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE UPPER RANKS THROUGH MERELY FILLING IN VACANT POSITIONS.

HA HA!!
YOU CAN TALK BACK NOW, HUH?

OH...


WHY WOULD SOMEONE POISED TO ACQUIRE THUNDER BREATHING BECOME A DEMON?

YOU...
HA HA...

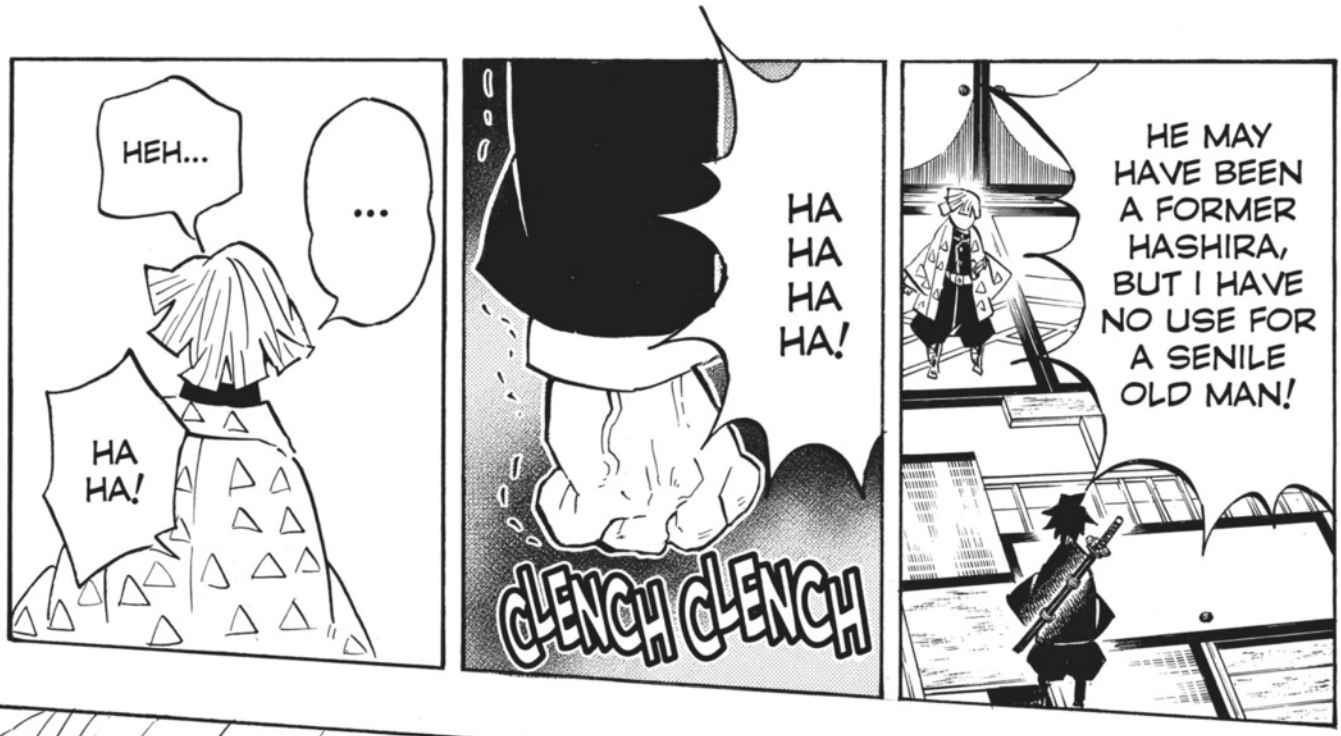
WHY DID YOU BE-COME A DEMON?

THE OLD MAN KILLED HIMSELF...
... BECAUSE YOU BECAME A DEMON !!!

HE...
...DIED ALL ALONE!
THERE WAS NO SECOND!
WHEN YOU COMMIT SEPPUKU, SOMEONE HAS TO CUT OFF YOUR HEAD...
...OR YOU SUFFER IN AGONY BEFORE YOU DIE!
HE COULD HAVE MADE IT QUICK BY CUTTING HIS THROAT, BUT HE DIDN'T!
ALL BECAUSE THE WIELDERS OF THUNDER BREATHING...
...HAD PRODUCED A DEMON!!

I DON'T CARE!
SO WHAT?
ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD BE SAD? THAT I SHOULD REPENT?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY-ONE WHO DOESN'T VALUE ME!
...SERVE THOSE WHO KNOW MY VALUE!
AT EVERY MOMENT ...
...I ONLY ...

THE OLD BASTARD SAID HE WOULD MAKE ME A CO-SUCCESSOR WITH SCUM LIKE YOU.
I DID EVERYTHING I COULD, BUT HE WOULDN'T MAKE ME HIS SUCCESSOR!
IF THE OLD MAN IS DEAD, FINE!


HEH...
...
HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
CLENCH CLENCH
HE MAY HAVE BEEN A FORMER HASHIRA, BUT I HAVE NO USE FOR A SENILE OLD MAN!

HE WASN'T SENILE.

I CAN ONLY DO THE FIRST FORM, AND YOU CAN DO EVERYTHING EXCEPT THAT!
IF I'M SCUM, THEN *YOU'RE* TRASH!
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE OLD MAN FOR HAVING SUCH PATHETIC SUCCESSORS ...
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH YOU!!!

THUNDER BREATHING:
FOURTH FORM
DISTANT THUNDER!

...YOU FILTH.
YOU'RE TOO SLOW...
SP
HE CUT ME!!
HE'S FAST!!
HE MOVES LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON!!
UT

Zenitsu's trainer, Jigoro Kuwajima, was the Rumble Hashira. (That's what it's called when a user of Thunder Breathing becomes a Hashira.) Kaigaku became his student first, but Kuwajima valued Zenitsu equally even though he became a student later. However, Kaigaku didn't like that he wasn't the only special one anymore and held a grudge. He gave Kaigaku a kimono with the same pattern as his, but the boy never wore it.

CHAPTER 145: BOX
OF HAPPINESS

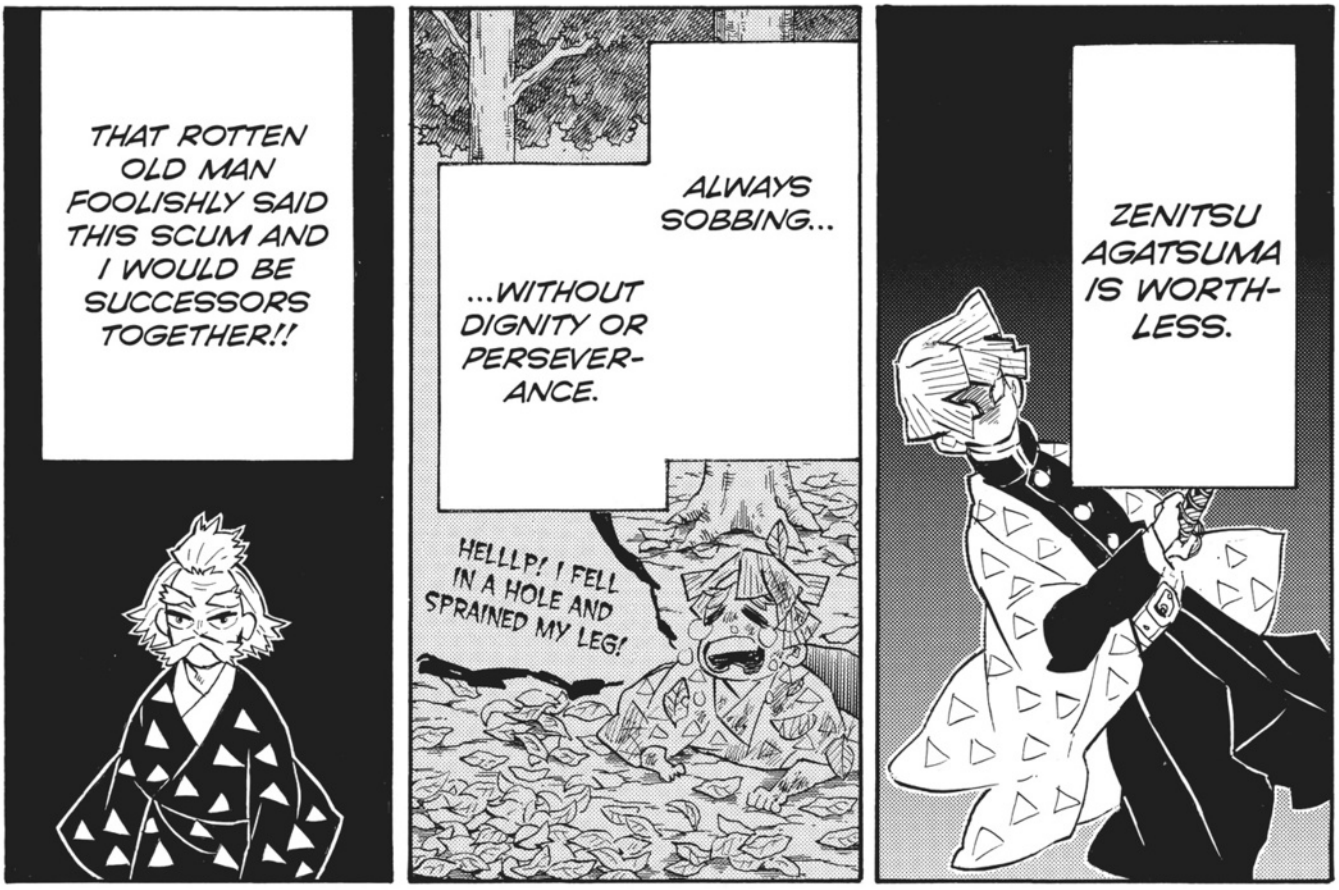
THERE IS NO SHAME IN KNEELING BEFORE SOMEONE WITH OVER-WHELMING STRENGTH.
AS LONG AS YOU STAY ALIVE, IT WILL WORK OUT SOMEHOW.
UNTIL YOU DIE, YOU HAVEN'T LOST.

PEOPLE MAY CURSE YOU FOR STEAL-ING MONEY...
YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME OR DRINK MUDDY WATER...
YOU MAY RUB YOUR FACE IN THE DIRT...
...YOU CAN WIN SOMEDAY. YOU WILL WIN. I HAVE MOVED FORWARD WITH THAT BELIEF.
BUT AS LONG AS YOU LIVE ON...
...RECOGNIZES YOU...YOU TOO WILL BECOME... ONE OF US.
IF HIS LORD-SHIP...
DO YOU WANT...TO BECOME A DEMON...FOR GREATER STRENGTH?

...THEY MUST RECEIVE...
...A GREAT DEAL OF BLOOD FROM HIS LORDSHIP.
TO BECOME A DEMON...TAKES MORE TIME... IF YOU ARE A STRONGER SWORDSMAN. IT TOOK ME THREE DAYS.
FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN USE BREATHING TECHNIQUES TO BECOME A DEMON...
...DOES NOT ALLOW THEM TO BECOME A DEMON...
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
AND RARELY...
...THERE ARE THOSE WHOSE CONSTI-TUTION...
...
IF YOU DO...
YOU MUST NOT SPILL EVEN A SINGLE DROP.
THAT IS BLOOD TO BE GRATEFUL FOR.

...YOUR HEAD WILL FALL FROM YOUR BODY LIKE TEARS.
THAT FEAR...
...LIKE THE CELLS THROUGH-OUT MY BODY...
... SCREAMING AND BURSTING INTO TEARS.
COMPARED TO THAT...

...THIS SMALL FRY IS NOTHING.
HE MAY HAVE GAINED SOME STRENGTH, BUT HE CANNOT MATCH AN UPPER RANK.


ZENITSU AGATSUMA IS WORTH-LESS.
ALWAYS SOBBING...
...WITHOUT DIGNITY OR PERSEVER-ANCE.
HELLLP! I FELL IN A HOLE AND SPRAINED MY LEG!
THAT ROTTEN OLD MAN FOOLISHLY SAID THIS SCUM AND I WOULD BE SUCCESSORS TOGETHER!!

YOU AND THAT OLD MAN!!
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU SHOULD DIE!!

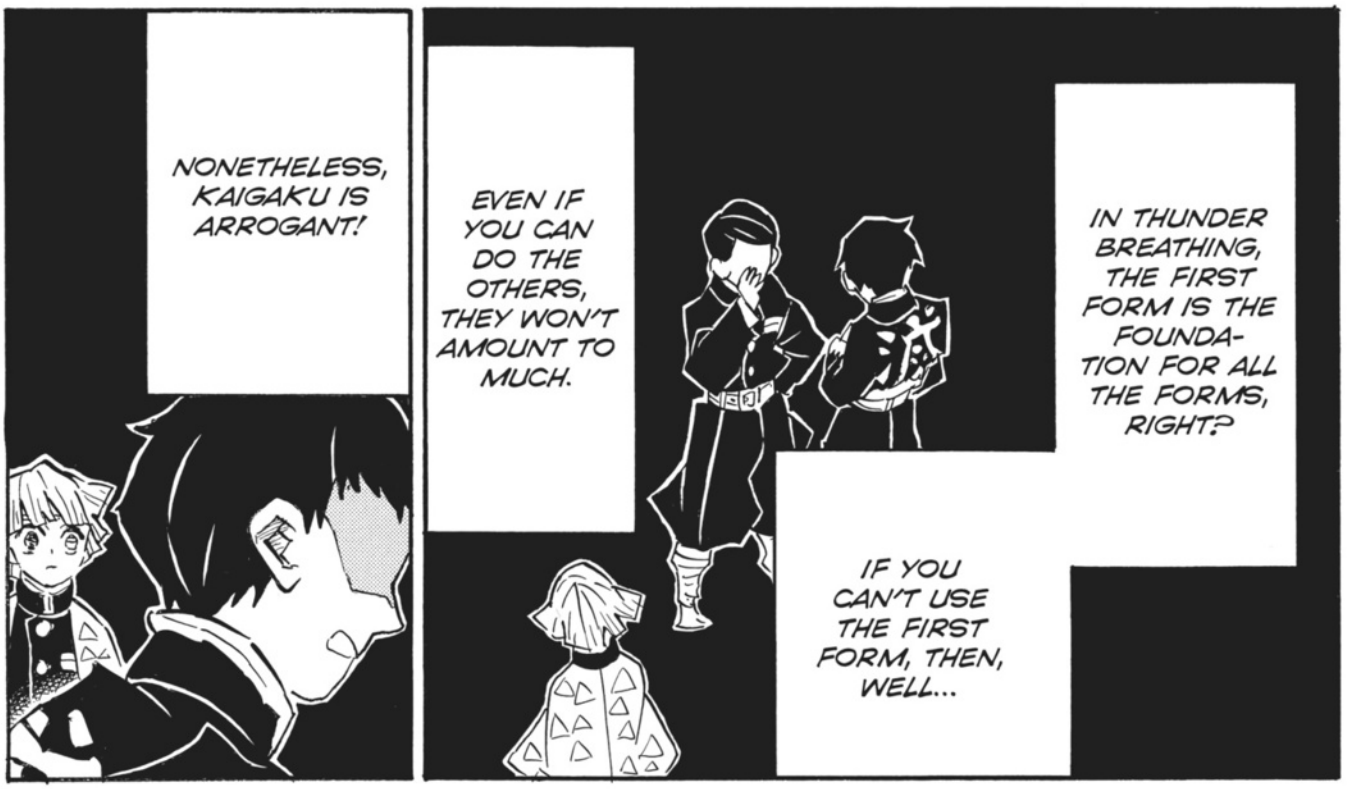
THUNDER BREATHING
SECOND FORM:
RICE SPIRIT!
FIVE SUCCESSIVE ATTACKS IN ONE BREATH IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
YOU'VE EATEN SO MANY PEOPLE!
YOU ALREADY CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL!
BUT I DO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!

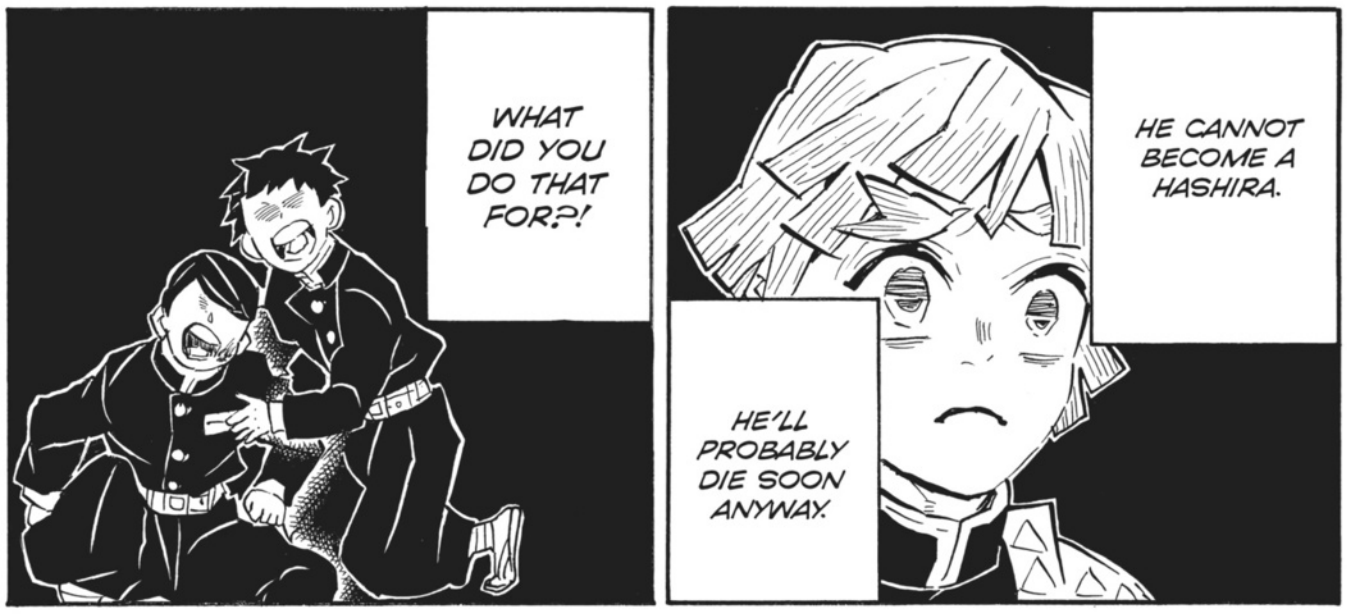
KA
FIFTH FORM:
HEAT LIGHT-NING!
AN ATTACK THAT SLASHES AND BURNS FLESH!
HOW'S THE SHARPNESS OF MY BLADE INFUSED WITH BLOOD DEMON ART?!

ANY SLASHING ATTACKS YOU SUFFER WILL CONTINUE TO REND YOUR FLESH!
I BECAME A DEMON AND SURPASSED THUNDER BREATHING!!
MY POWER BURNS INTO YOUR EYES AND BODY!
RUMBLE AND FLASH!
THUNDER BREATHING
SIXTH FORM:

I AM SPECIAL! I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL!!
BE LIKE YOUR SENIOR APPREN-TICE!!
LEARN FROM KAIGAKU'S EXAMPLE!

THIRD FORM:
THUNDER SWARM!
THOSE WHO CORRECTLY EVALUATE ME AND KNOW MY WORTH ARE GOOD!!
THOSE WHO HAVE A LOW ESTIMATION OF ME ARE EVIL!!
A WAVE-FORM ATTACK WHILE SPINNING?!

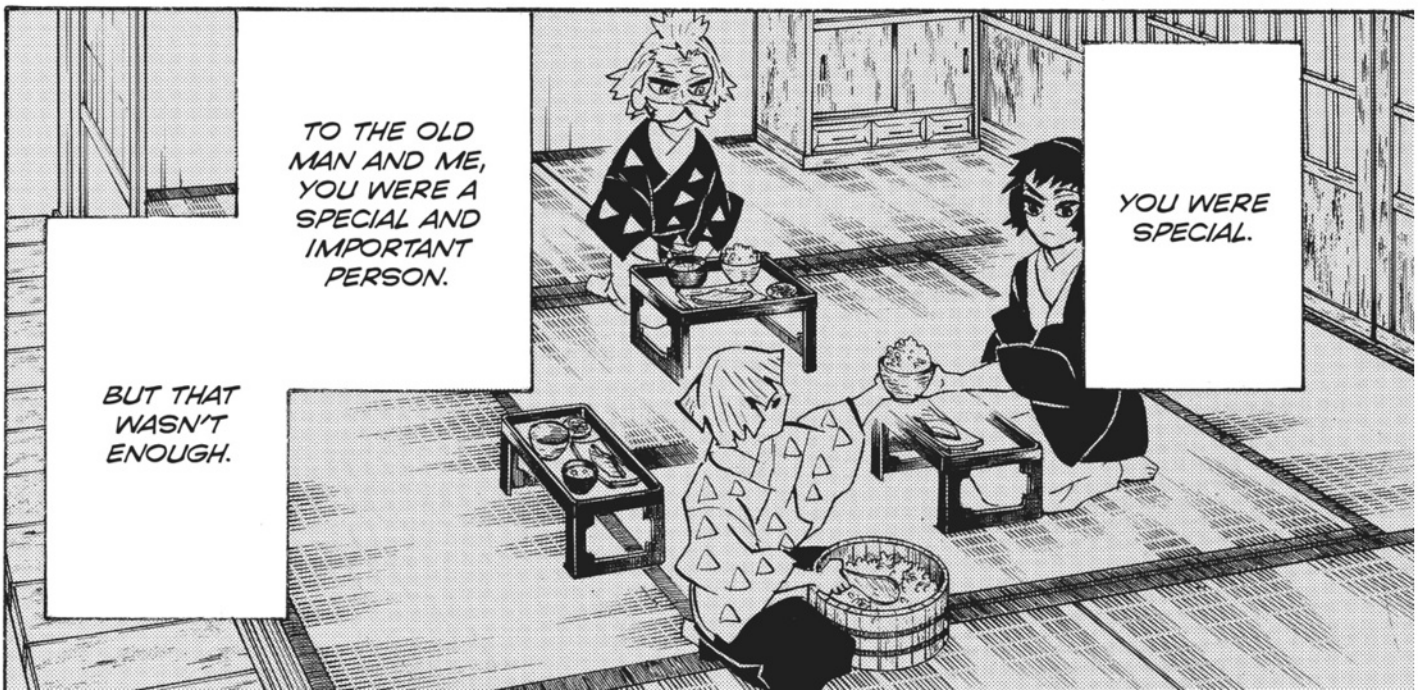

NONETHELESS, KAIGAKU IS ARROGANT!
EVEN IF YOU CAN DO THE OTHERS, THEY WON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH.
IN THUNDER BREATHING, THE FIRST FORM IS THE FOUNDA-TION FOR ALL THE FORMS, RIGHT?
IF YOU CAN'T USE THE FIRST FORM, THEN, WELL...


WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!
HE CANNOT BECOME A HASHIRA.
HE'LL PROBABLY DIE SOON ANYWAY.

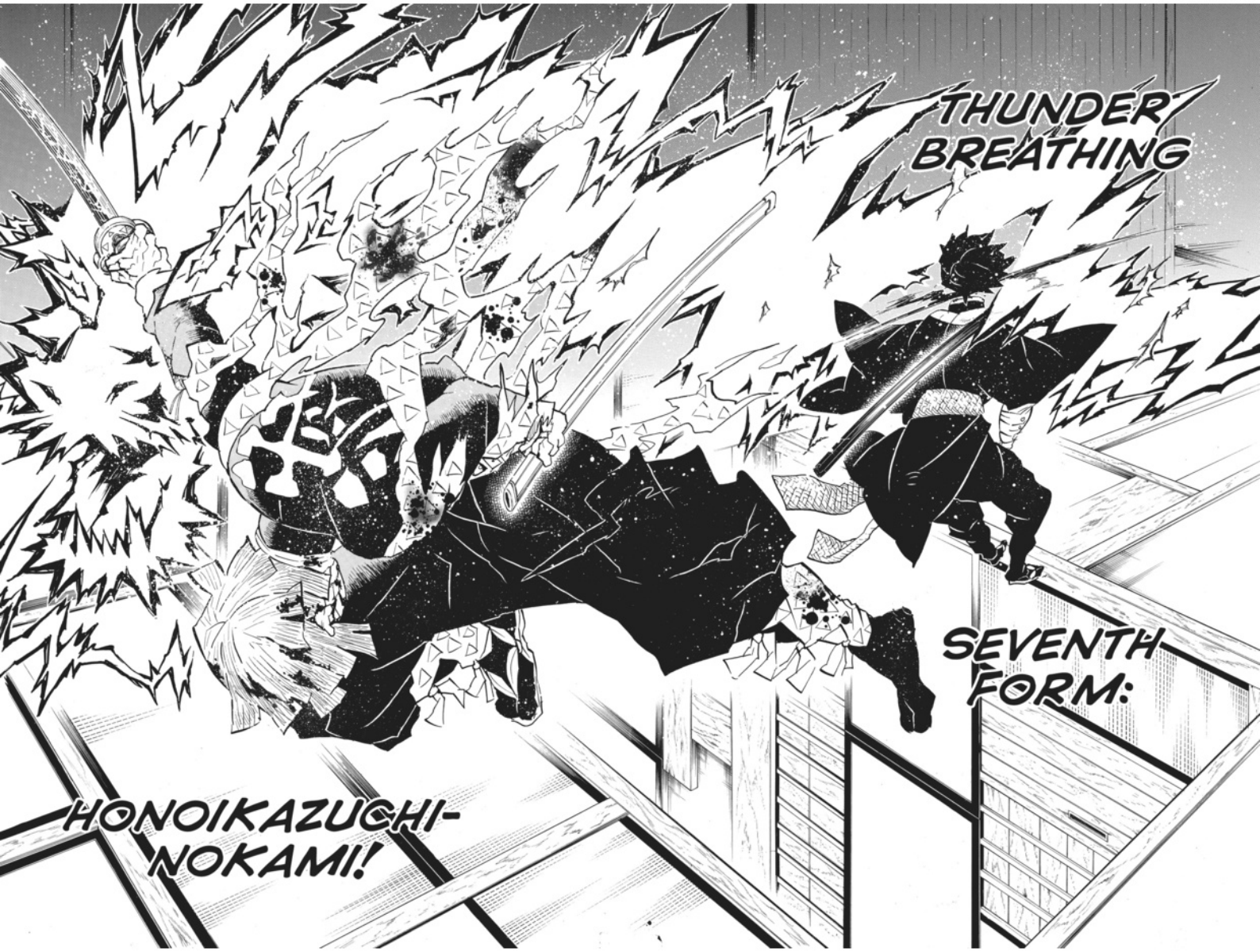
IT'S EMBAR-RASSING THAT YOU'RE EVEN HERE!
I HEARD YOU HIT A HIGHER-RANKING GUY?
DON'T CAUSE PROBLEMS!

AFTER ALL, I HATED YOU TOO.
I...
...CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HATED ME.

I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING AT YOUR BACK.
BUT I RESPECTED YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
YOU WORKED SO HARD.


TO THE OLD MAN AND ME, YOU WERE A SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT PERSON.
YOU WERE SPECIAL.
BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH.

THE BOX IN YOUR HEART THAT CONTAINS HAPPINESS HAS A HOLE IN IT.
HAPPINESS IS CONSTANTLY SPILLING OUT.
IF YOU DON'T FIND THAT HOLE AND PLUG IT...
...YOU'LL NEVER BE SATISFIED.
YOU WERE NEVER SATISFIED.
GWSH
I'M SORRY, GRAMPS.
WE TOOK DIFFERENT PATHS.
I'M SORRY...
...KAIGAKU.
HE STILL HAS STRENGTH LEFT...
?!
TP


THUNDER BREATHING
SEVENTH FORM:
HONOIKAZUCHI-NOKAMI!

I...
I DIDN'T SEE THAT!!
WAS THAT A TECH-NIQUE?!
IT WAS SO FAST!
IT WAS A FORM I DON'T KNOW. WHAT DID HE USE?!

Kaigaku is the boy who invited in the demon who attacked Himejima's temple. The other children had discovered that he stole money from the temple, so they confronted him and drove him outside that night. Himejima's blindness is one reason he never knew Kaigaku was missing until the attacking demon mentioned it. Another reason is that the other children lied and said Kaigaku was sleeping.

CURSES! CURSES!
I KNEW IT! THAT OLD MAN FAVORED YOU!!
HE ONLY TAUGHT YOU! HE DIDN'T TEACH ME!
NO.
HE WASN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON.
...I WANTED TO FIGHT YOU AS AN EQUAL!
THIS IS *MY* FORM.
I CREATED IT, SO IT'S ALL MINE.
WITH THIS TECH-NIQUE...

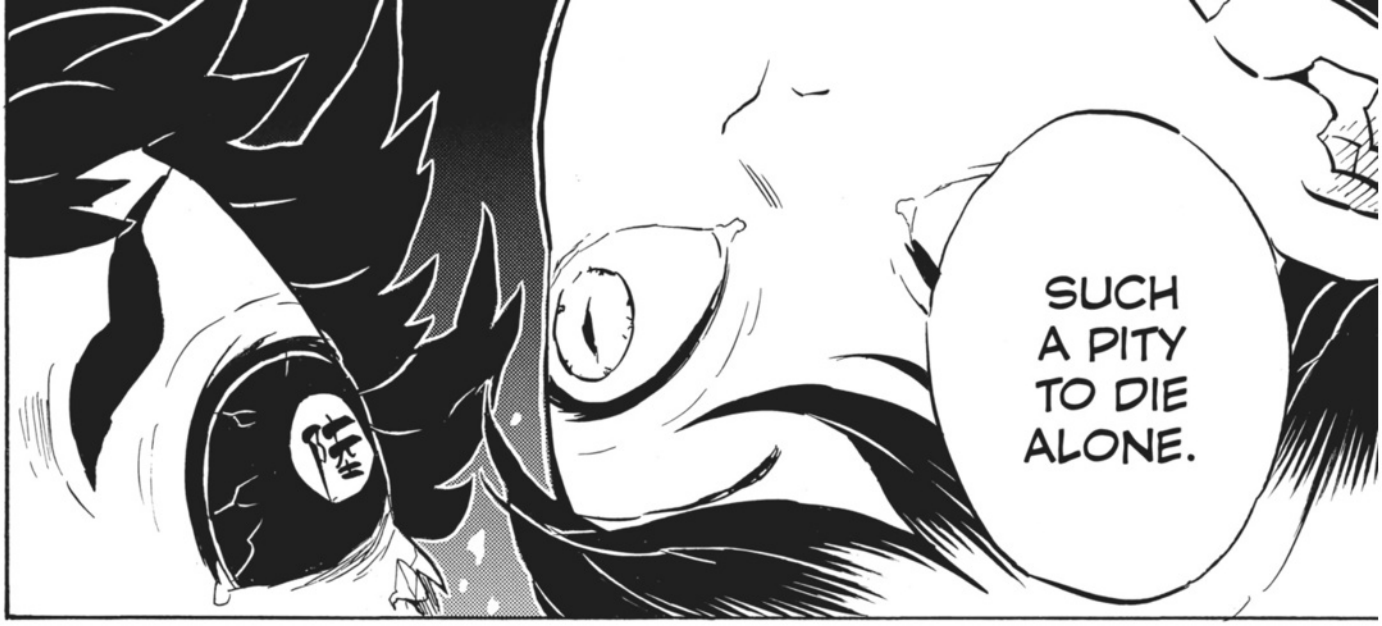
CHAPTER 146: PRIDE

A SEVENTH TECHNIQUE, HE SAID?
FROM THUNDER BREATHING, WHICH ONLY HAS SIX FORMS...
...HE DEVELOPED A SEVENTH?
HE DID? A GUY WHO CAN ONLY USE THE FIRST FORM?
THIS FILTH, WHO WAS WEAKER THAN ME?

*EYE: UPPER RANK

HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY STRENGTH LEFT.
HE'S GOING TO DIE WITH ME.
NO.
NO, I DIDN'T LOSE.
HE'S GOING TO FALL AND DIE TOO.

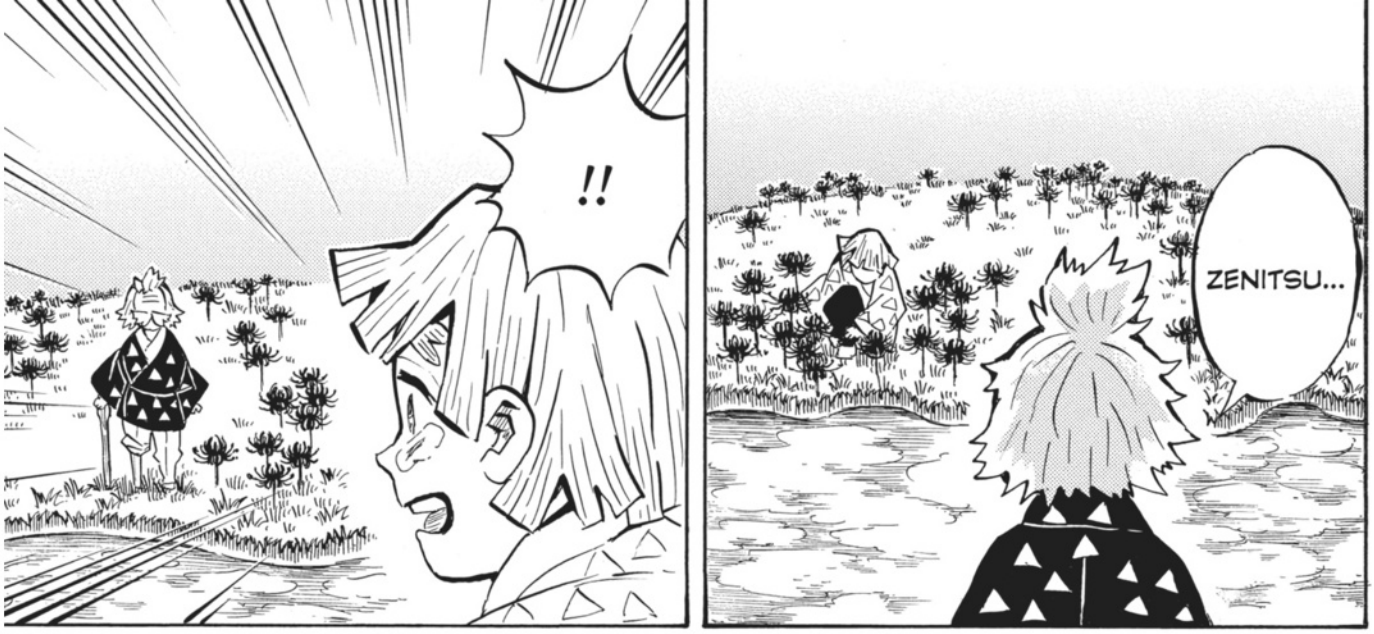
ONLY WANTING IS, IN THE END, THE SAME AS HAVING NOTHING...
SOMEONE WHO NEVER GIVES TO OTHERS WILL SOMEDAY BECOME UNABLE TO RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM THEM.
...BECAUSE ONE IS UNABLE TO CREATE ANYTHING.
?!

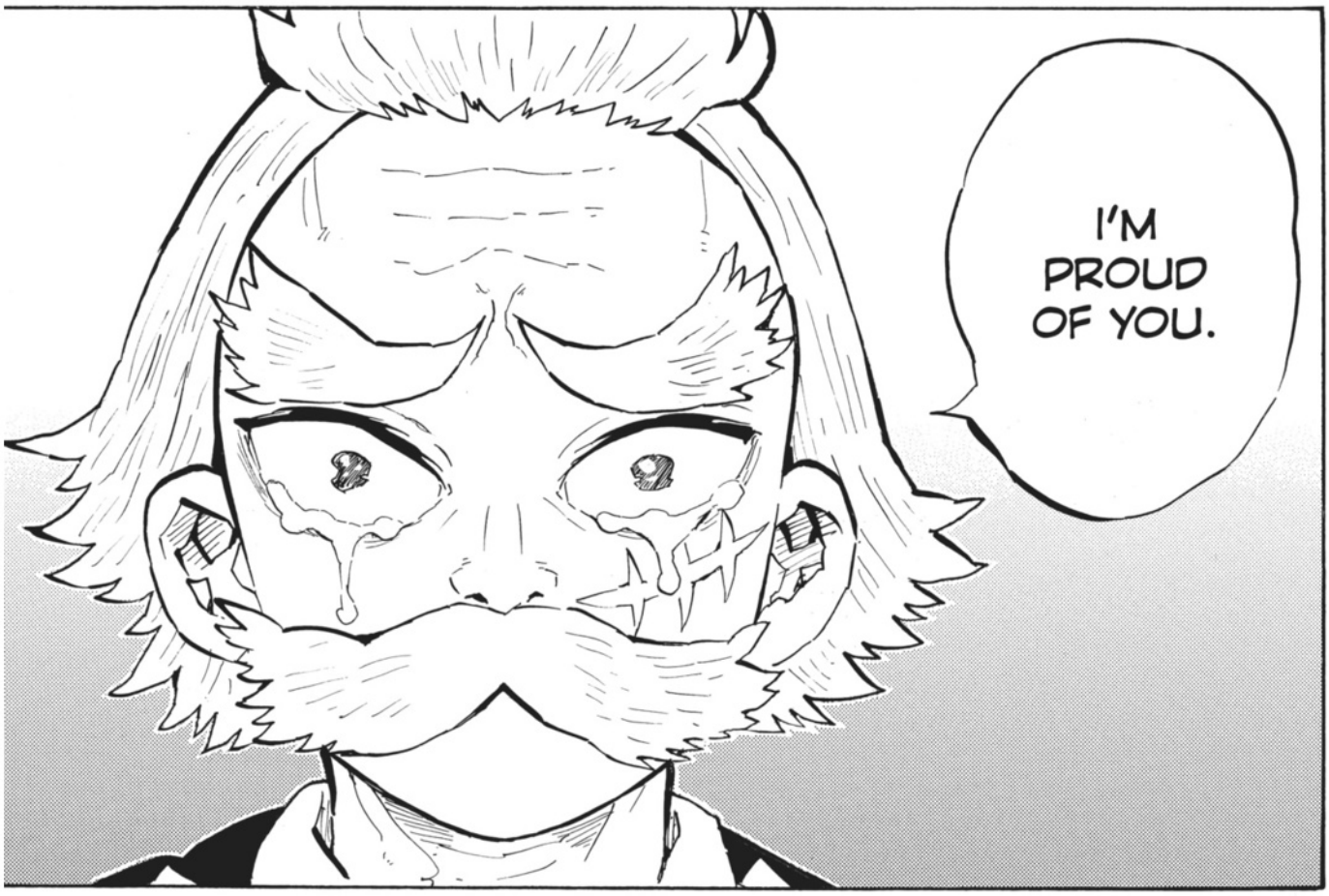

SUCH A PITY TO DIE ALONE.

BAMP
...
BAMP
TWP

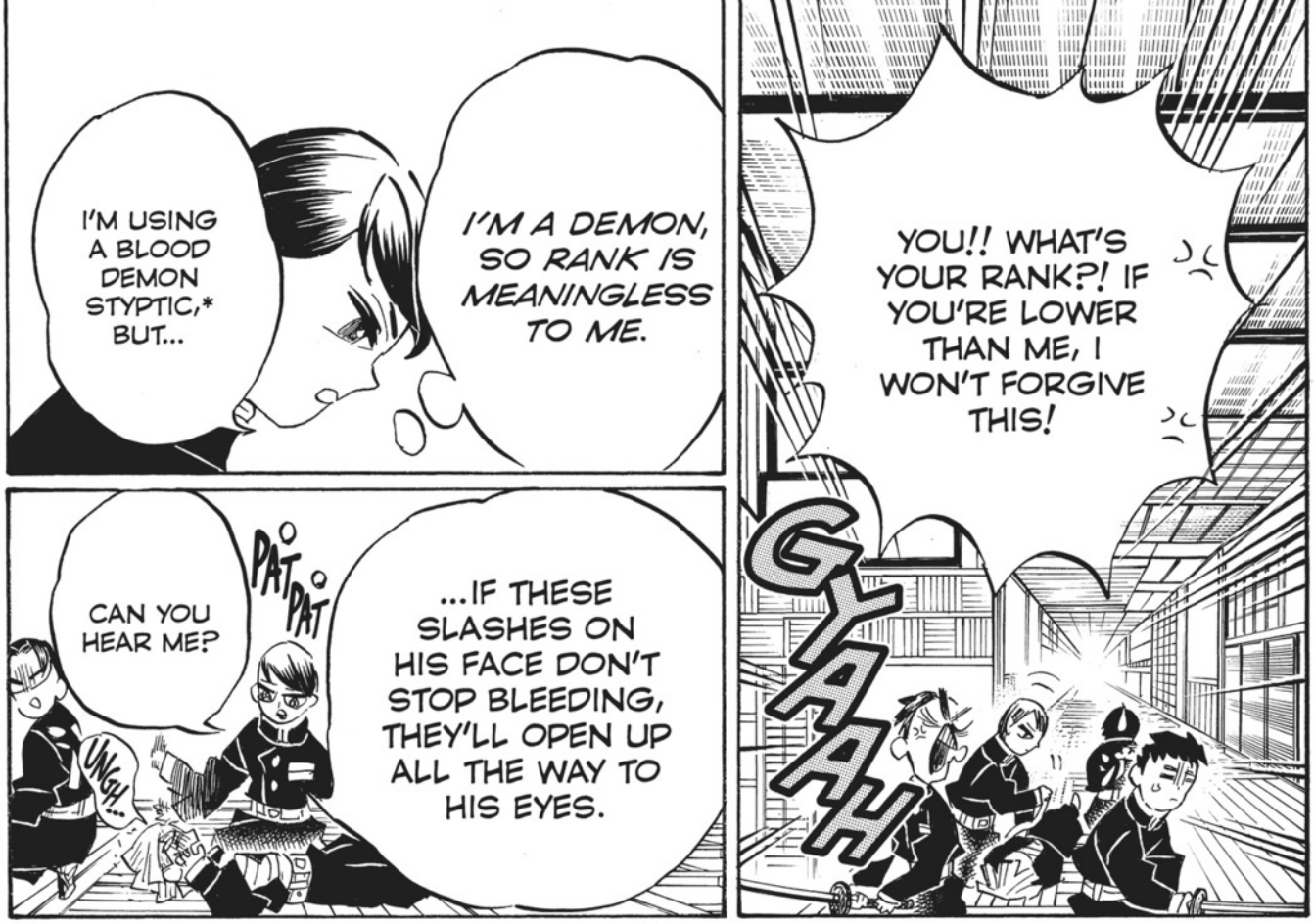
GRAMPS!!
I WROTE TO HIM...
...BUT HE NEVER REPLIED!
SORRY!
I COULDN'T GET ALONG WITH KAIGAKU!

I'M REALLY SORRY!!
FORGIVE ME!!
IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, KAIGAKU MIGHT NOT HAVE TURNED OUT THAT WAY!
SORRY, GRAMPS... SORRY.
I WANTED TO BECOME A HASHIRA WHILE YOU WERE STILL ALIVE!
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T REPAY MY DEBT!
WHAT'S THIS? IT'S WRAPPING AROUND MY FEET!
ARGH!
HWUMP
SAY SOME-THING!
DO YOU HATE ME NOW?

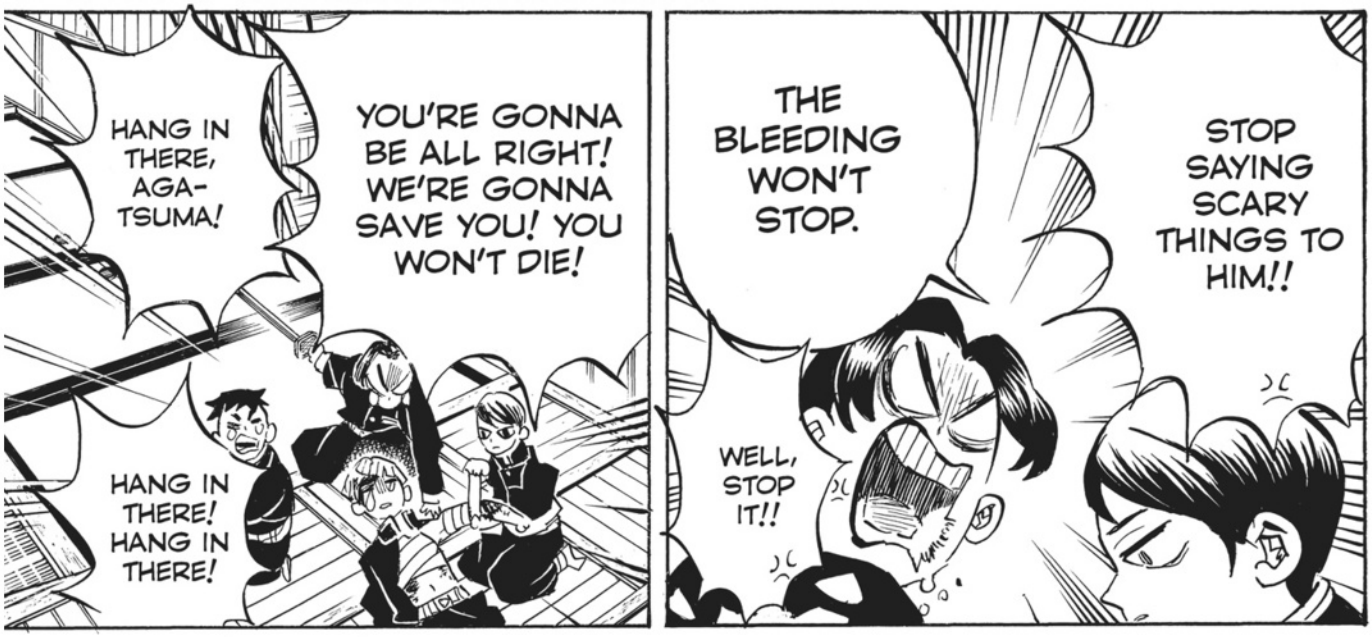

!!
ZENITSU...


I'M PROUD OF YOU.

I KNOW HIM! DO SOME-THING!
HOW IS HE?!
DO YOU THINK WE CAN SAVE HIM?!
...
I'M BEGGING YOU!!
SO NOISY. BE QUIET, MURATA. MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL...
...AND KEEP AN EYE OUT.
CHANGING ONLY HIS EYES TO BE HUMANLIKE

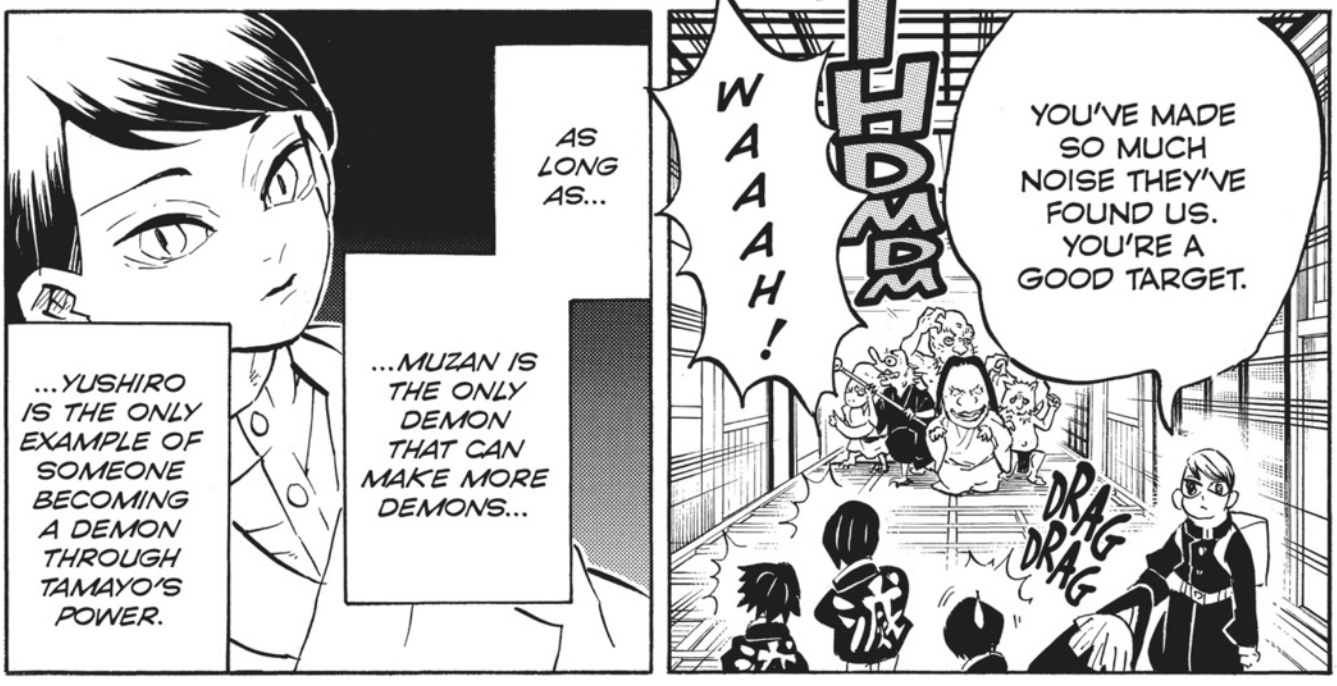

I'M USING A BLOOD DEMON STYPTIC,* BUT...
I'M A DEMON, SO RANK IS MEANINGLESS TO ME.
YOU!! WHAT'S YOUR RANK?! IF YOU'RE LOWER THAN ME, I WON'T FORGIVE THIS!
GYAAH
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
PAT PAT
UNGH...
...IF THESE SLASHES ON HIS FACE DON'T STOP BLEEDING, THEY'LL OPEN UP ALL THE WAY TO HIS EYES.

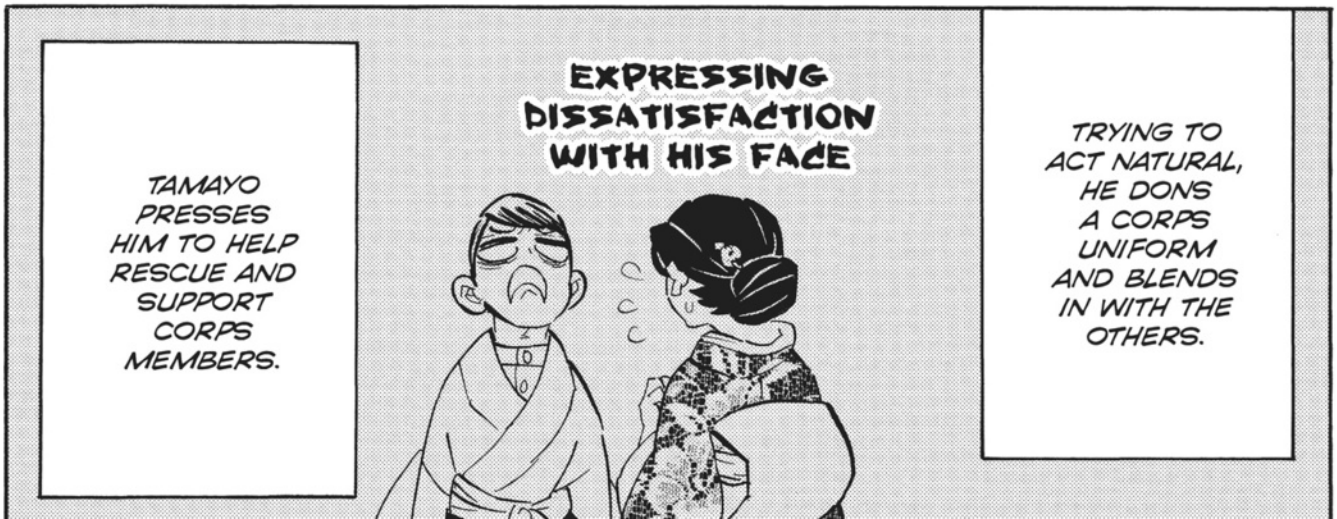
*DEMON STYPTIC: AN AGENT THAT STOPS THE ADVANCE OF A BLOOD DEMON ART (DEVELOPED BY TAMAYO)

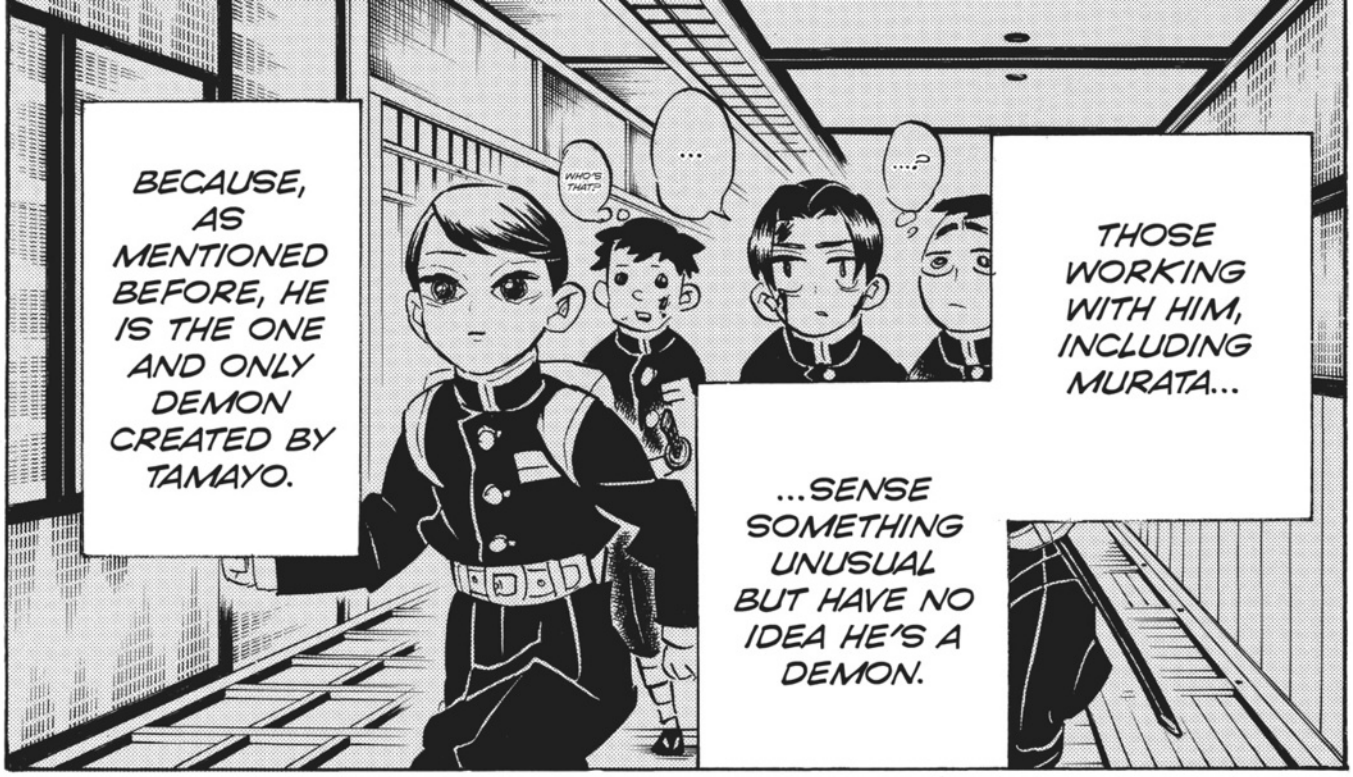

HANG IN THERE, AGA-TSUMA!
YOU'RE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT! WE'RE GONNA SAVE YOU! YOU WON'T DIE!
HANG IN THERE! HANG IN THERE!
THE BLEEDING WON'T STOP.
STOP SAYING SCARY THINGS TO HIM!!
WELL, STOP IT!!

IF YOU HAD FOUGHT HIM A YEAR FROM NOW, HE PROBABLY WOULD'VE KILLED YOU IMMEDI-ATELY.
WHICH IS LUCKY.
THE KIZUKI YOU WERE FIGHTING STILL HASN'T MASTERED HIS TECHNIQUES AND ABILITIES.

...SUCH DEPRESS-ING THINGS!!!
STOP SAYING...


...YUSHIRO IS THE ONLY EXAMPLE OF SOMEONE BECOMING A DEMON THROUGH TAMAYO'S POWER.
AS LONG AS...
...MUZAN IS THE ONLY DEMON THAT CAN MAKE MORE DEMONS...
THDMM
WAAAH!
YOU'VE MADE SO MUCH NOISE THEY'VE FOUND US. YOU'RE A GOOD TARGET.
DRAG DRAG


TAMAYO PRESSES HIM TO HELP RESCUE AND SUPPORT CORPS MEMBERS.
EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS FACE
TRYING TO ACT NATURAL, HE DONS A CORPS UNIFORM AND BLENDS IN WITH THE OTHERS.


BECAUSE, AS MENTIONED BEFORE, HE IS THE ONE AND ONLY DEMON CREATED BY TAMAYO.
WHO'S THAT?
...
...?
THOSE WORKING WITH HIM, INCLUDING MURATA...
...SENSE SOMETHING UNUSUAL BUT HAVE NO IDEA HE'S A DEMON.

I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS!
HURRY UP AND KILL IT!
SIGH
KLAZY
ITS NECK IS HARD!!
RAA-AAH!!
ENOUGH OF THIS!
IT STINKS!

UH-OH. SOME-THING'S COMING...
I'LL FLANK IT, SO...
...
!!
IT SPITS ACID!

WE'RE NOT ENCOUNTER-ING ANY UPPER RANKS!
IS MUZAN STILL FAR AWAY?!
IS EVERYONE ELSE STILL OKAY?!
SHINOBU!!
I'M SURE WE'RE GONNA WIN, SO...
...WE'RE...

ドカーン
?!
ドカーン

G...
GIYU!
STOP!! CALM DOWN!
WHAT IS THIS SHAKING?!
IS IT COMING THIS WAY?
NO...
IS SOME-ONE ELSE GOING TO DIE?!
IS SOME-ONE STILL FIGHTING ?!
THAT SMELL...
TANJIRO! GET BACK!!
ABOVE!!

LONG TIME NO SEE...
I'M SURPRISED A WEAKLING LIKE YOU...
...IS STILL ALIVE.
*EYES: UPPER 3
TANJIRO...

KAMADO
!!
AKAZAAAAA
!!

BWUHO
BLORP

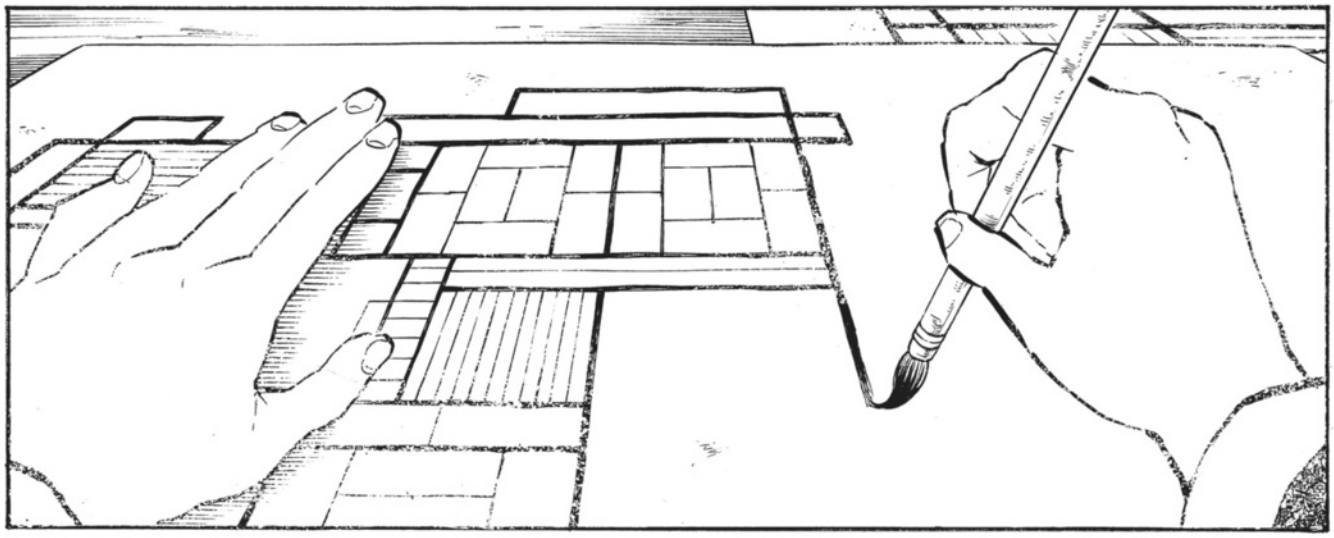
EVENTUALLY, IT WILL ABSORB ME TOO.
PLEASE, SOMEONE, COME QUICKLY.
SPLK SPLAK
MAYBE... THIS MEAT THING IS LIKE A CO-COON.
GLP
IT'S BREAKING DOWN A SUBSTANCE FOR CHANGING DEMONS BACK INTO HUMANS.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
GWUMP
PLEASE!!

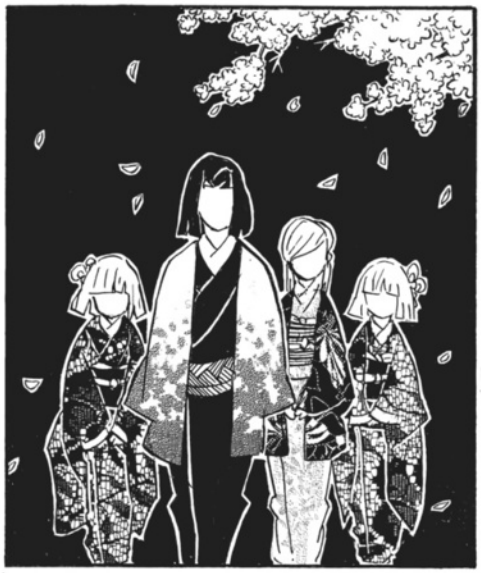
Murata was all alone after demons killed his family, so he joined the Demon Slayer Corps. He uses Water Breathing, but he's so weak that he can't see any water.

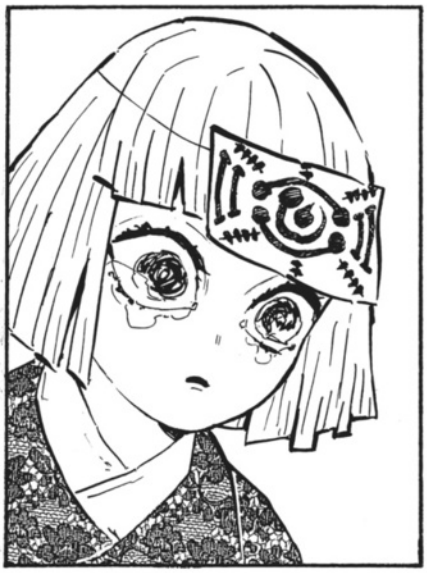
(Note) The swordsmen don't actually produce water, but it looks that way to people watching.

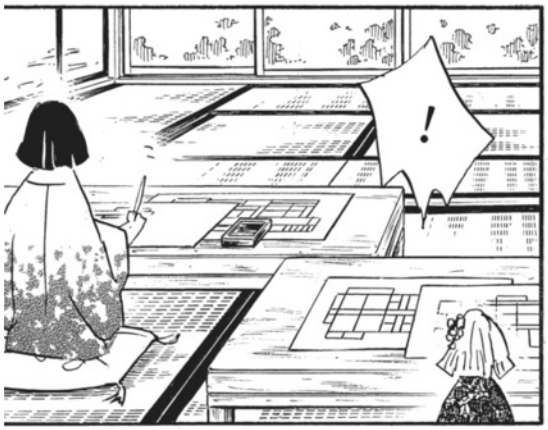
(Note) Besides Urokodaki, there are other trainers who teach Water Breathing. Water Breathing is easy for beginners, so more swordsmen use it than any other style of breathing.

CHAPTER 147: SMALL COGS



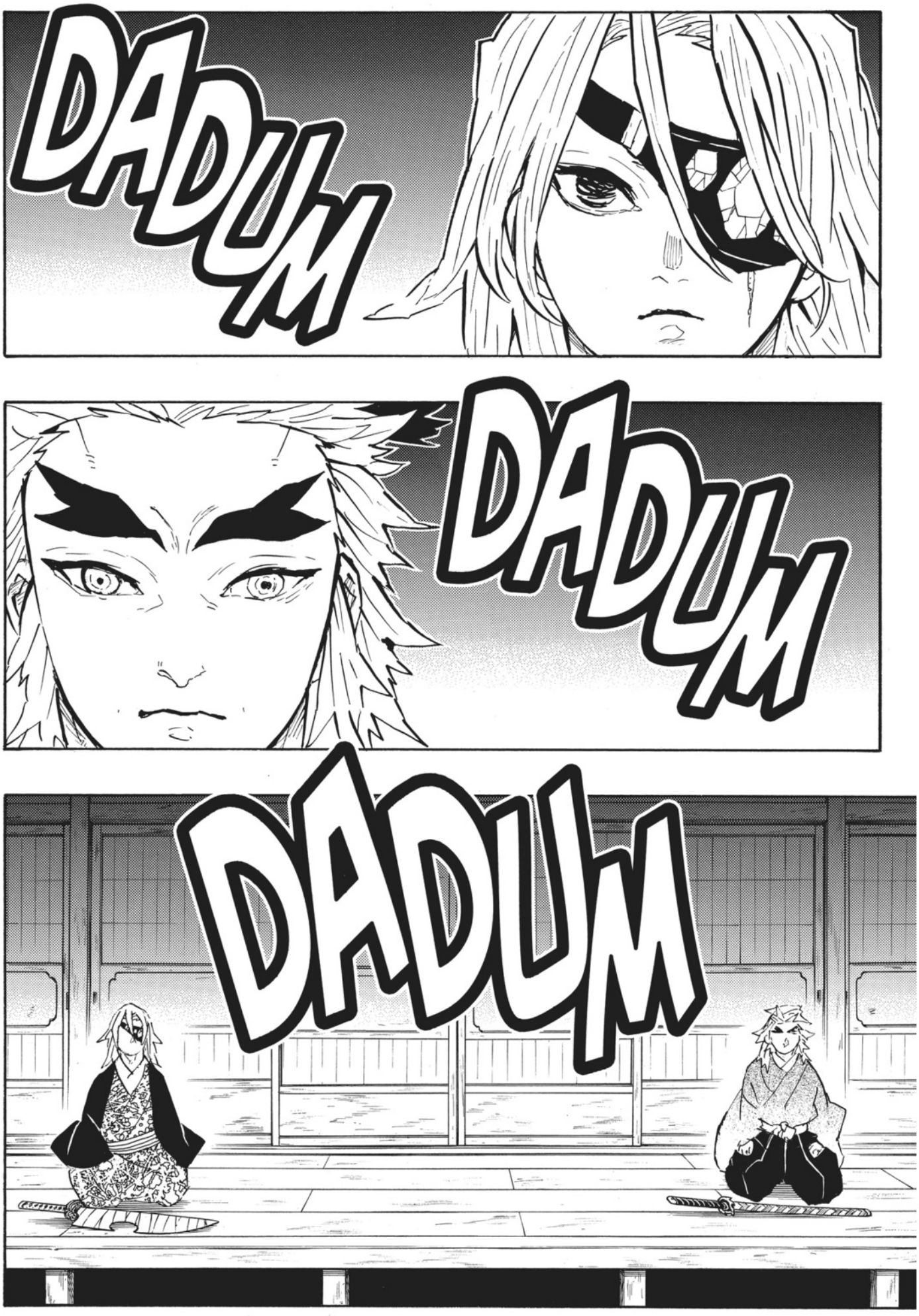




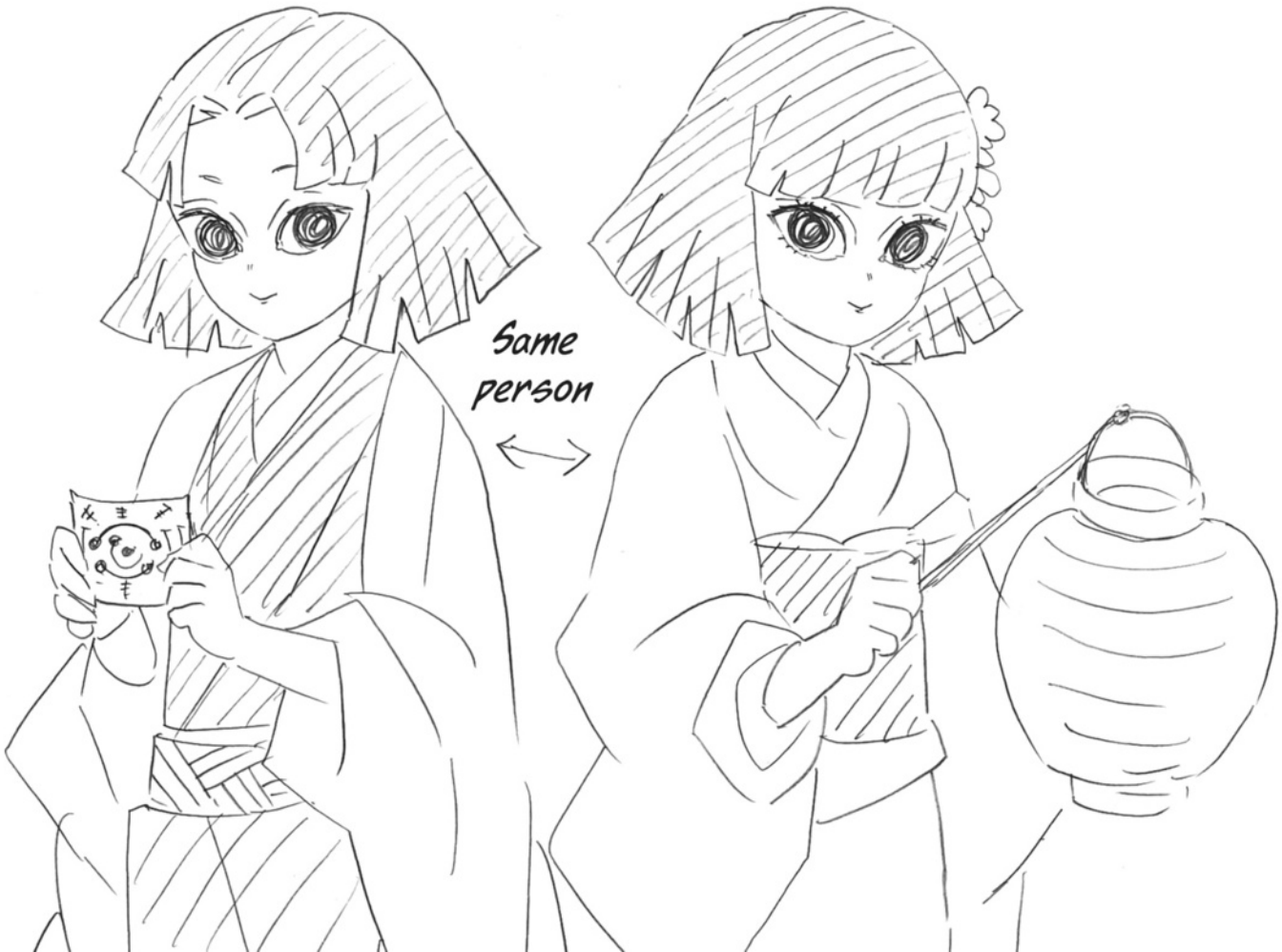

!

UNDER-
STOOD.

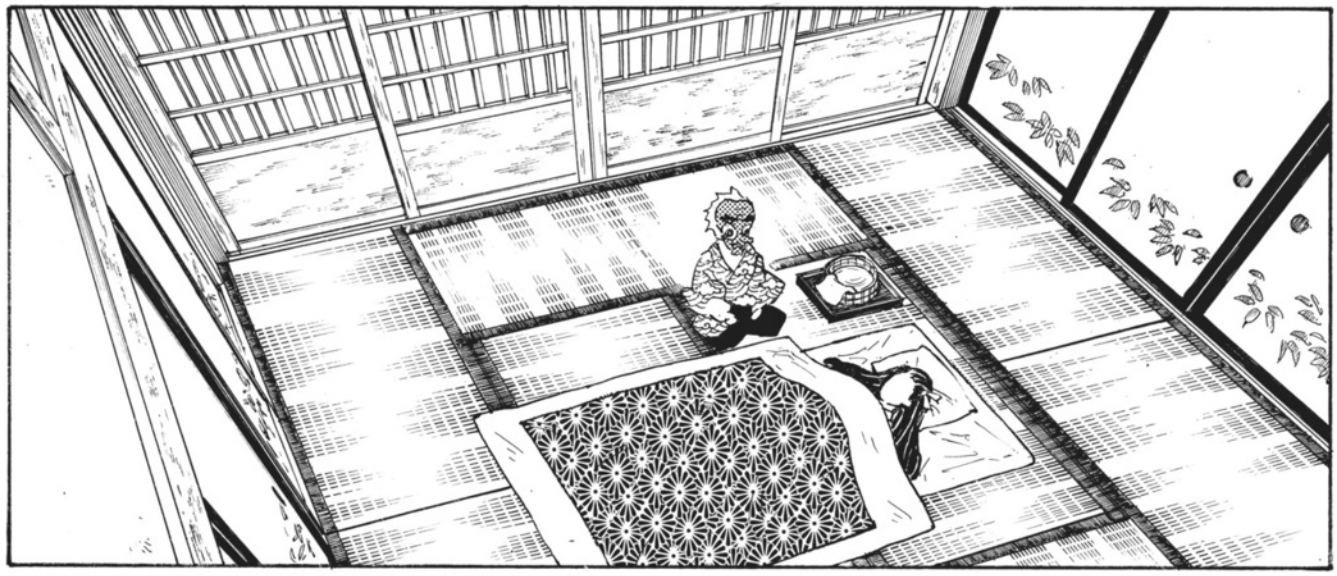
DON'T
CRY.
DEFINITELY
DO NOT
STOP
YOUR
HANDS.
WE WILL
NOT
LOSE.

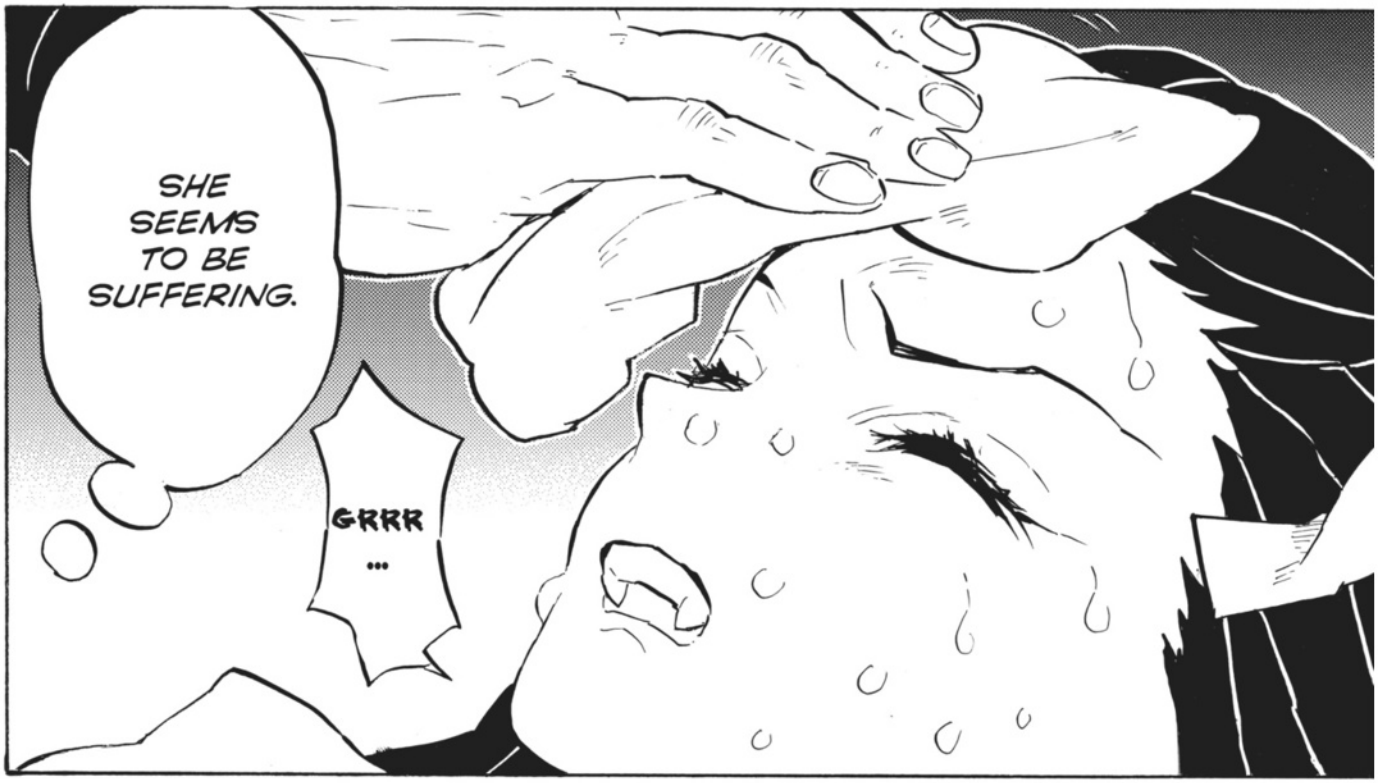

DADUM
DADUM
DADUM

At Final Selection in volume 1, the black-haired child holding a lantern was Kiriya. He's the only boy among the five children, so he became the new head of the household in place of his father.



KIRIYA IS MAGNIFICENT.
HIS ANGUISH OVER HIS FATHER'S DEATH STILL LINGERS, BUT HE HAS TAKEN COMMAND OF THE DEMON SLAYER CORPS...
...AND IS TRYING TO FULFILL HIS MISSION.
EH, RENGOKU?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE YOUNG CHILDREN...
...ARE ROUSING THEMSELVES TO THIS DEGREE OF ACTION.
LIKE KYOJURO, I WILL RISK MY LIFE TO PROTECT THEM...
...SO AS NOT TO BRING SHAME UPON HOUSE RENGOKU.



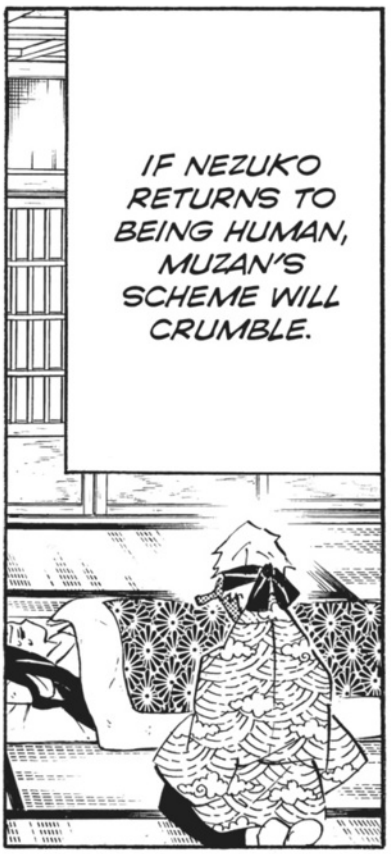

SHE SEEMS TO BE SUFFERING.
GRRR...

I USED IT AS I WAS TOLD, BUT...
THE MEDICINE PROVIDED BY THE DEMON TAMAYO, WHO WAS COOPERATING WITH THE MASTER...

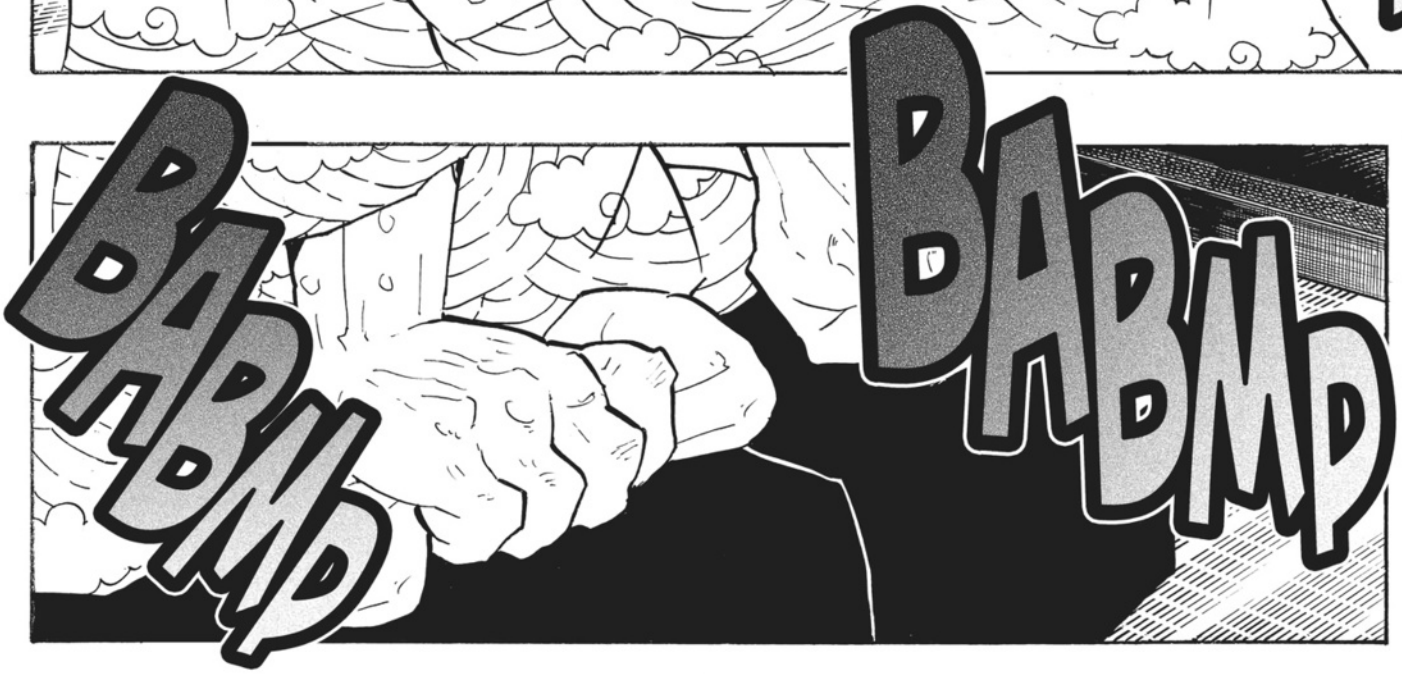
WILL NEZUKO REALLY...
...BECOME HUMAN AGAIN?

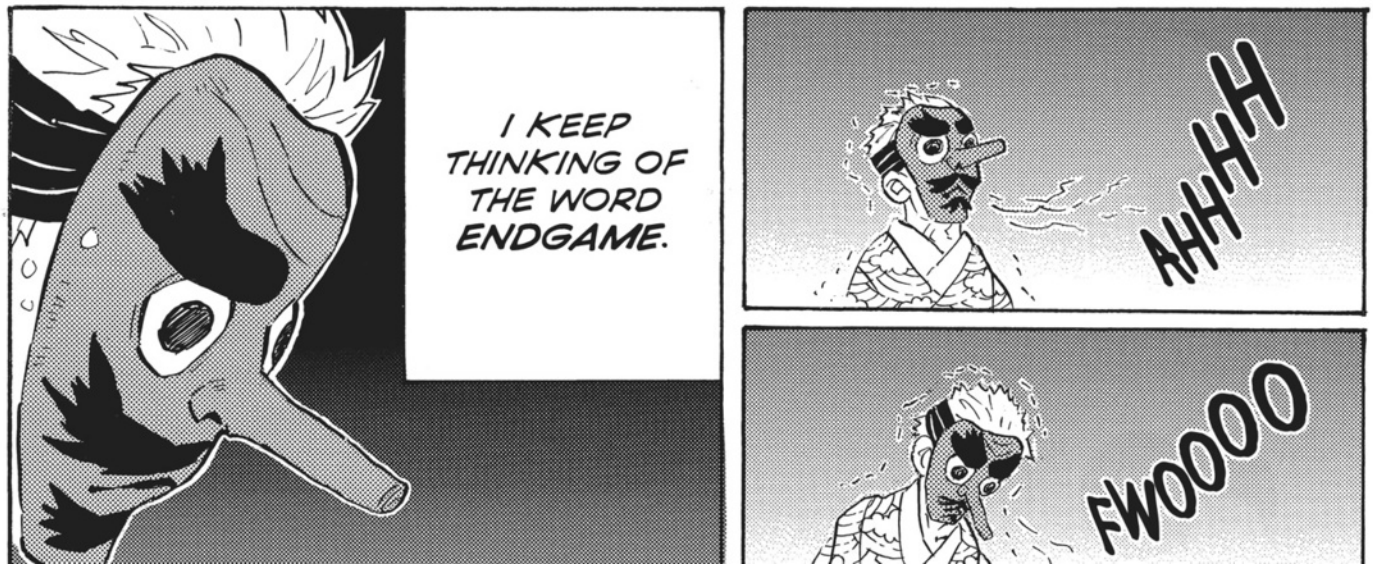
IN ALL THESE YEARS, NEZUKO IS THE ONLY DEMON SUNLIGHT DOES NOT DESTROY.

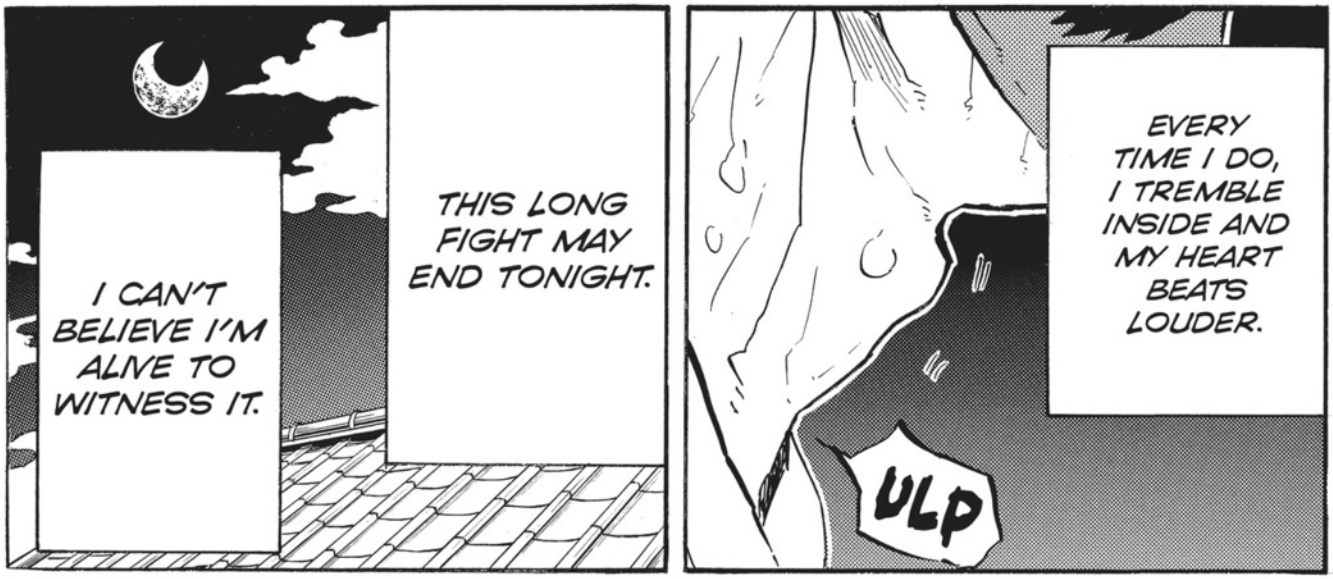
HIS DREAM OF CONQUERING THE SUN, WHICH HE'S PURSUED FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS...
...WILL RETURN TO SQUARE ONE.

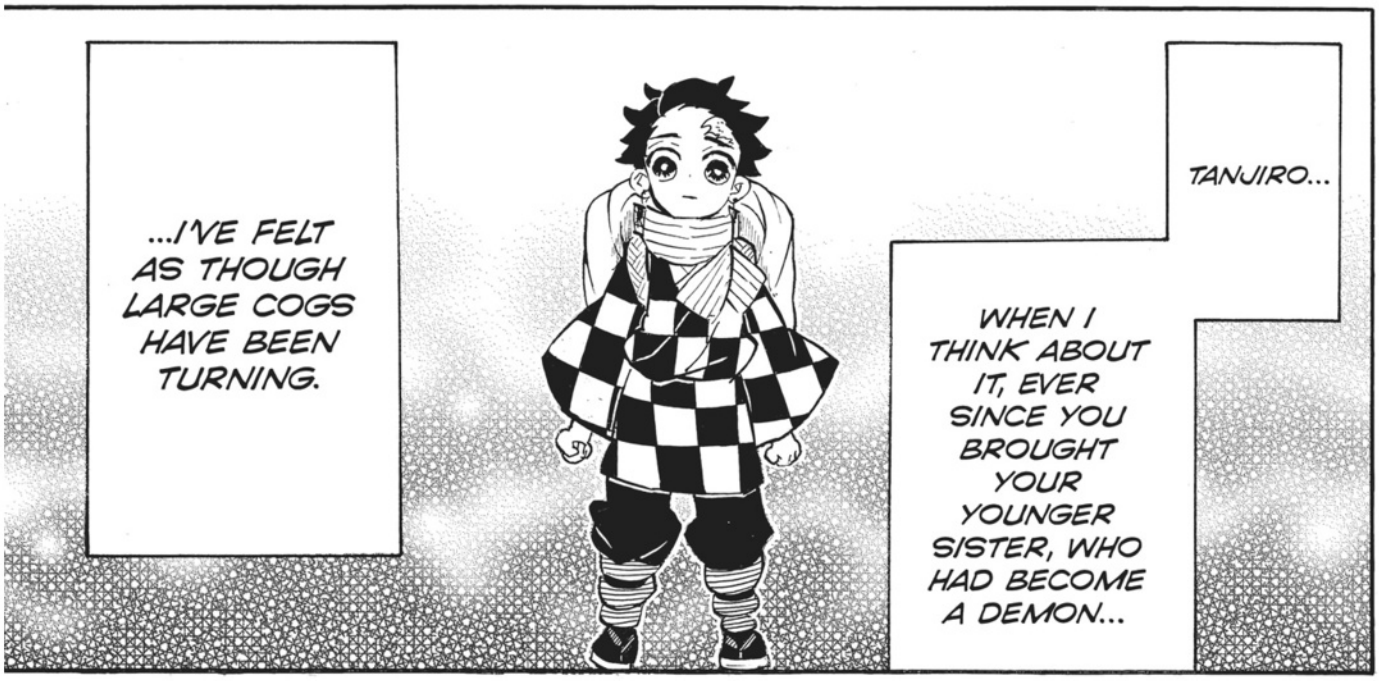

IF NEZUKO RETURNS TO BEING HUMAN, MUZAN'S SCHEME WILL CRUMBLE.

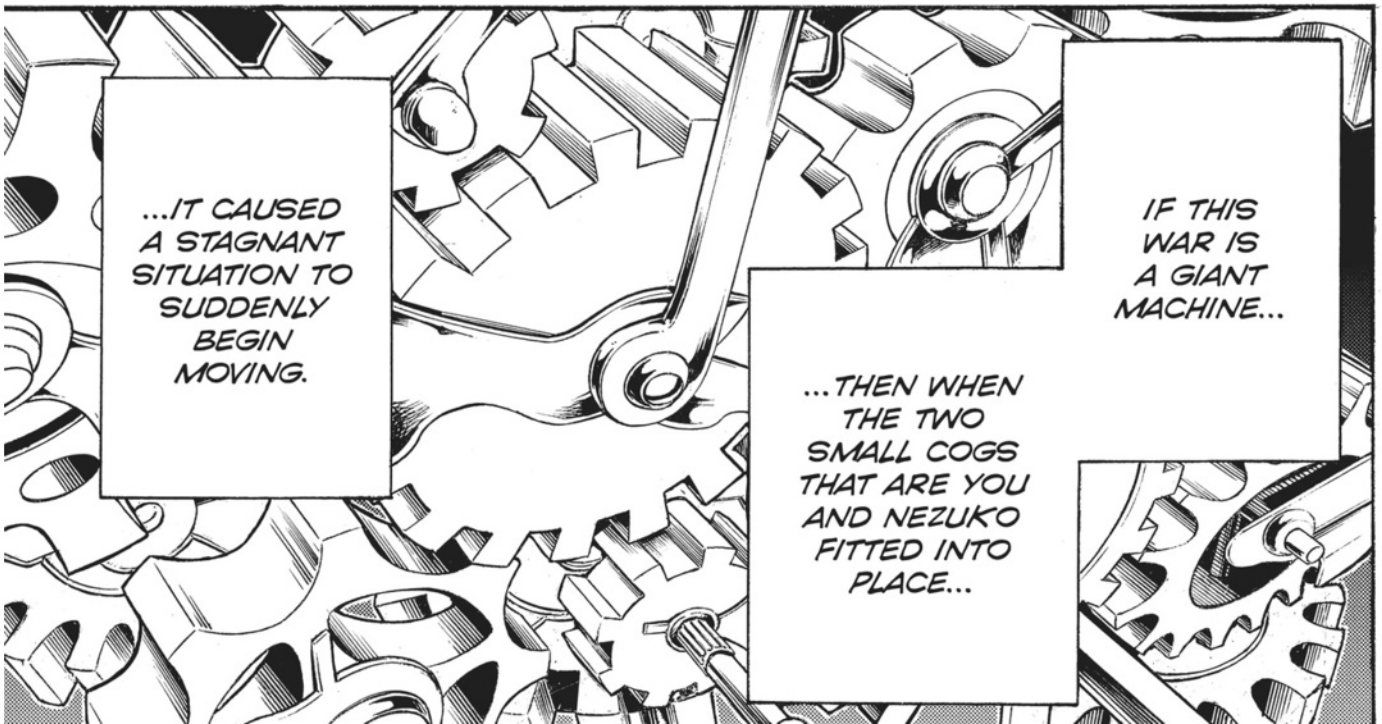
BABMP
BABMP


BABMP
BABMP

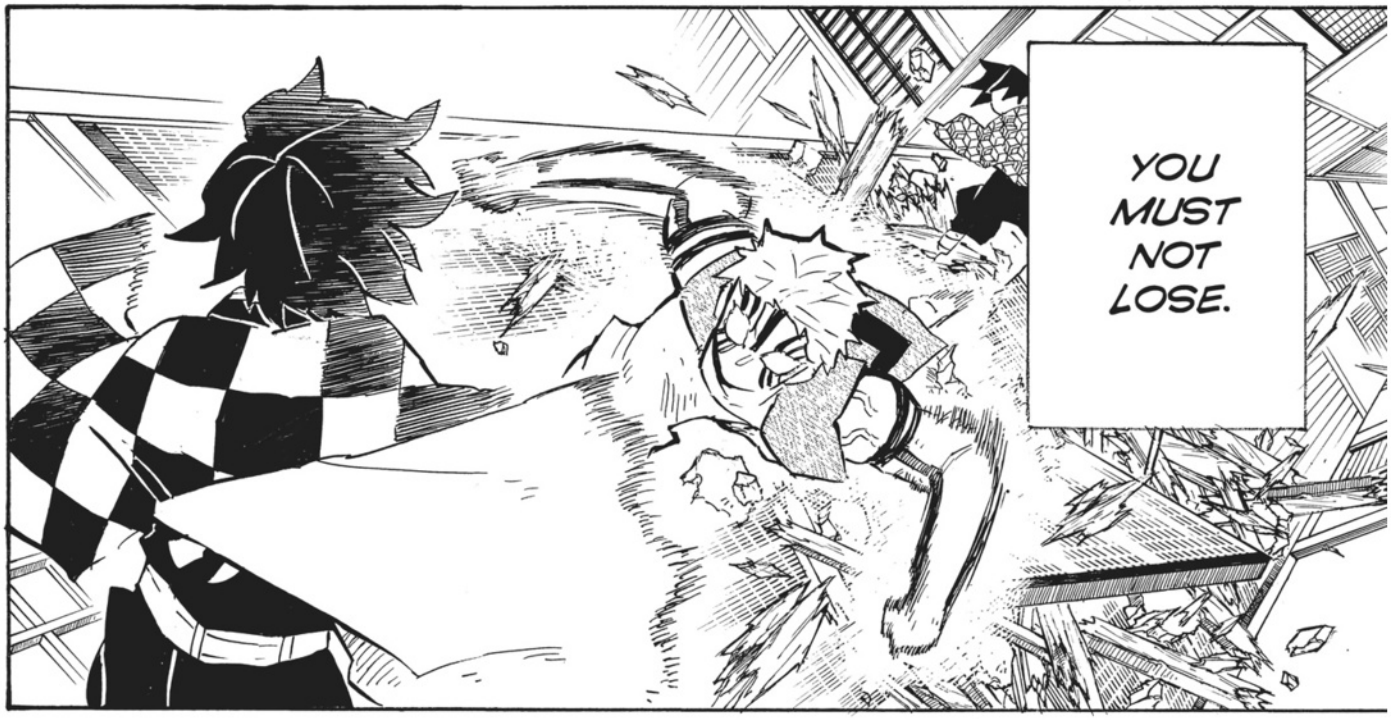

I KEEP THINKING OF THE WORD ENDGAME.
AHHHH
FWOOOO


I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ALIVE TO WITNESS IT.
THIS LONG FIGHT MAY END TONIGHT.
EVERY TIME I DO, I TREMBLE INSIDE AND MY HEART BEATS LOUDER.
ULP


...I'VE FELT AS THOUGH LARGE COGS HAVE BEEN TURNING.
TANJIRO...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, EVER SINCE YOU BROUGHT YOUR YOUNGER SISTER, WHO HAD BECOME A DEMON...


...IT CAUSED A STAGNANT SITUATION TO SUDDENLY BEGIN MOVING.
IF THIS WAR IS A GIANT MACHINE...
...THEN WHEN THE TWO SMALL COGS THAT ARE YOU AND NEZUKO FITTED INTO PLACE...

DON'T LOSE, TANJIRO.
DON'T LOSE, NEZUKO.


YOU MUST NOT LOSE.

HINOKAMI KAGURA!

FIRE WHEEL!!
SHK
IF I CAN'T CUT HIS ARM, THEN I CAN'T CUT OFF HIS HEAD!
COME ON, COME ON, COME ON!!

*EYES: UPPER 3

SLAM

SLASH
I GOT HIM!! AND I DODGED HIS ATTACK!
IT WORKED! I CAN FIGHT!
TOMP

I DIDN'T AIM FOR HIS NECK! BUT NEXT TIME...
ZSHH

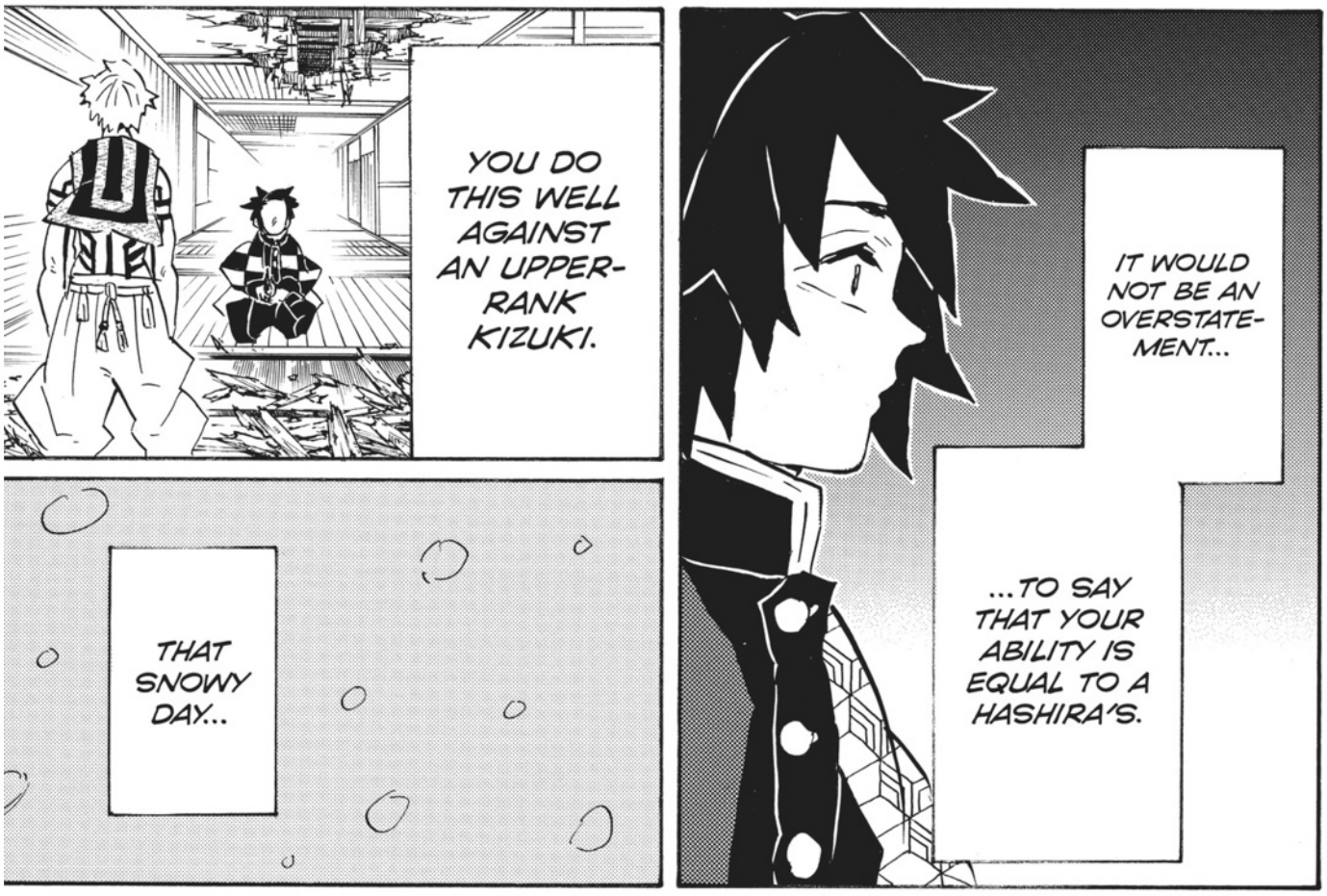
MOCK SUN RAINBOW!
HINOKAMI KAGURA
SNIFF

BAM
SLUT

TANJIRO...
...HAS REALLY DEVELOPED HIS TECHNIQUES.

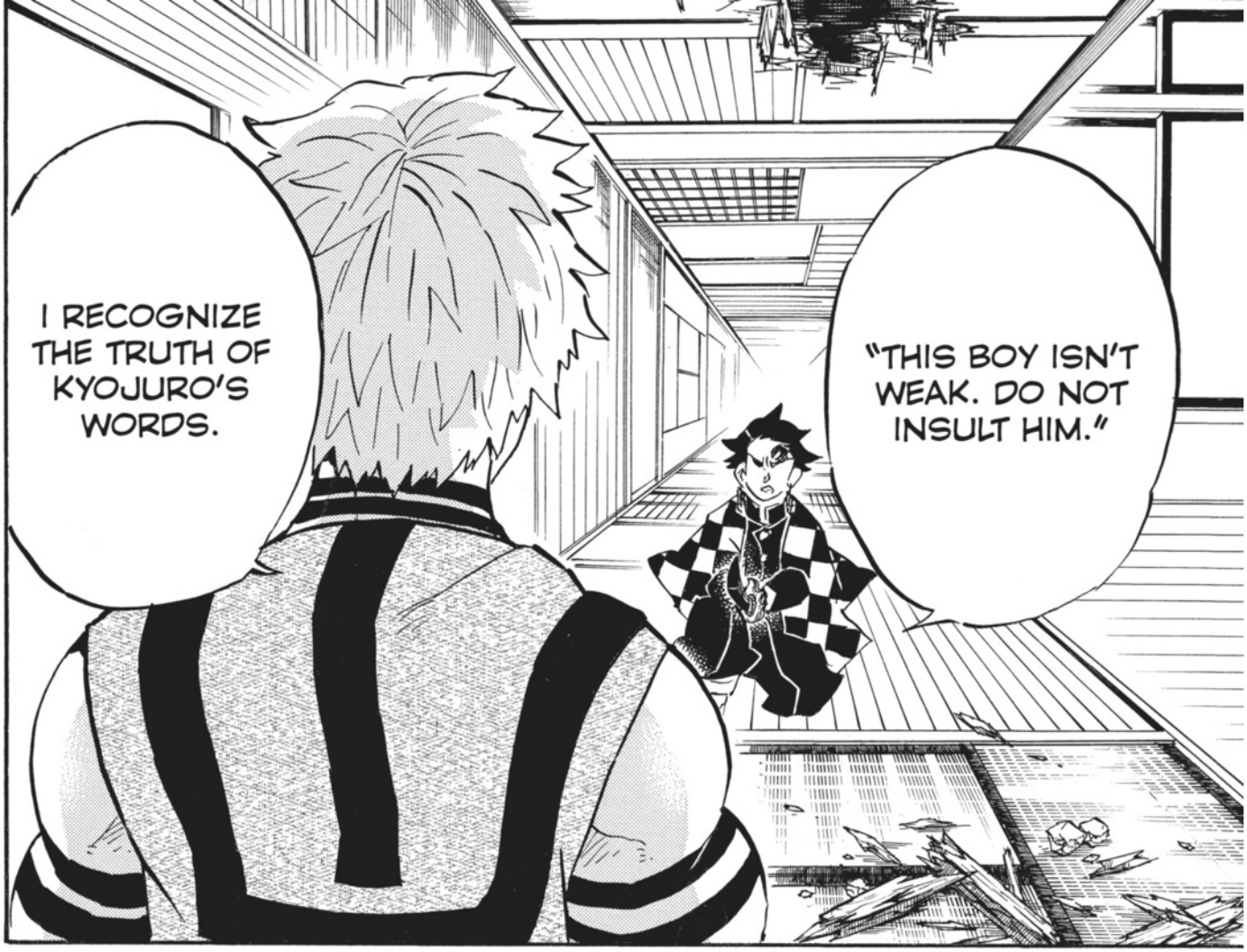
SHU

DABMP
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
DABMP


YOU DO THIS WELL AGAINST AN UPPER-RANK KIZUKI.
IT WOULD NOT BE AN OVERSTATE-MENT...
...TO SAY THAT YOUR ABILITY IS EQUAL TO A HASHIRA'S.
THAT SNOWY DAY...

YOU WAILED AND BEGGED FOR YOUR SISTER'S LIFE.
ALL YOU COULD DO...
...WAS HANG YOUR HEAD IN DESPAIR.

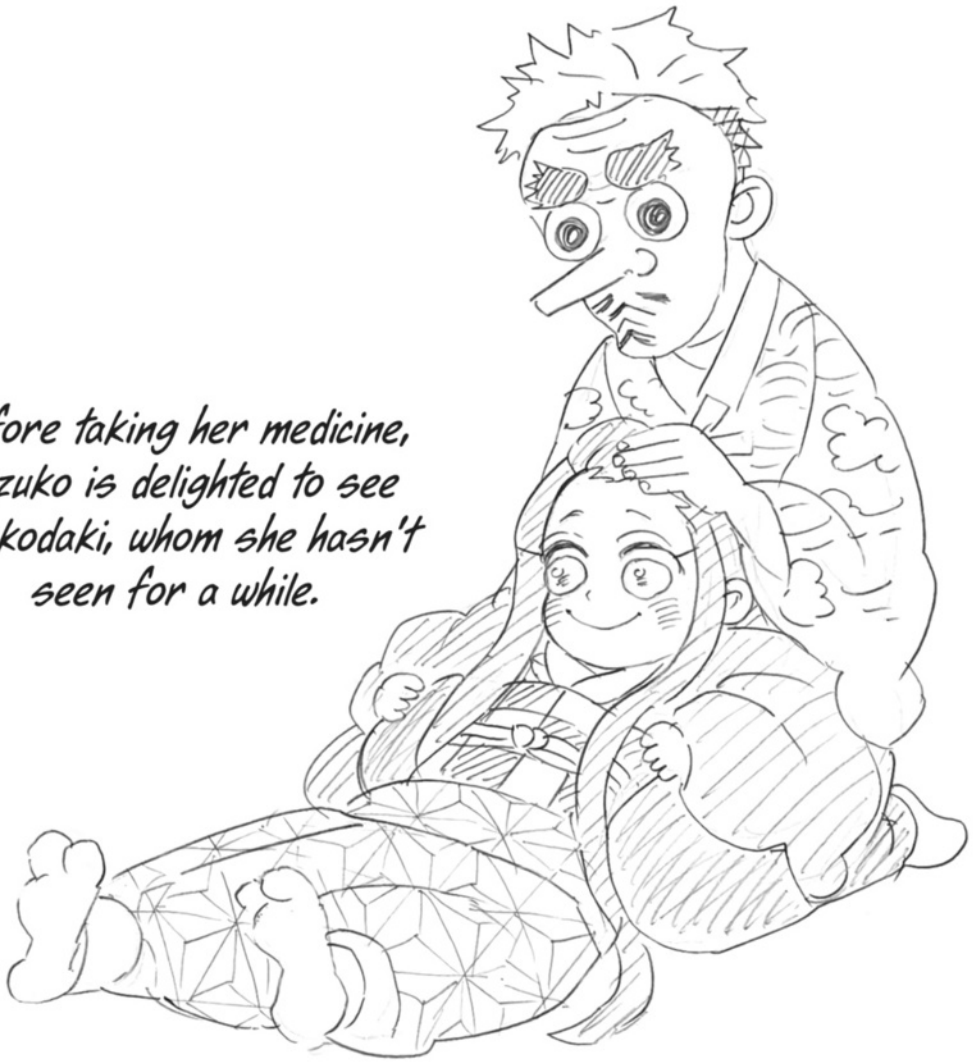
...OR DIGNITY.
NOW YOU WON'T LOSE...
... EITHER LIFE...
BUT NOW YOU CAN FIGHT.


I RECOGNIZE THE TRUTH OF KYOJURO'S WORDS.
"THIS BOY ISN'T WEAK. DO NOT INSULT HIM."

YOU HAVE MY RESPECT.
YOU CERTAINLY WEREN'T WEAK.
TWIP

TECHNIQUE DEVELOP-MENT!

...OUR LITTLE CELEBRATION...
SO LET US BEGIN...



Before taking her medicine, Nezuko is delighted to see Urokodaki, whom she hasn't seen for a while.

CHAPTER 148: CLASHING

WATER BREATHING
THIRD FORM:
FLOWING DANCE!
THE WATER HASHIRA, HUH?
EXCELLENT! IT'S BEEN 50 YEARS SINCE I'VE ENCOUNTERED ONE!

DESTRUCTIVE DEATH
CHAOTIC TYPE
ELEVENTH FORM:
WATER BREATH-ING

DEAD CALM!
BAM
BAM
BAM
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT TECHNIQUE.
THE LAST WATER HASHIRA I KILLED DIDN'T USE IT.

WH
SH
HINOKAMI KAGURA
RAGING
SUN!
?!
HE... DISAPPEARED!

BEHIND ME!!
HINOKAMI KAGURA
MOCK SUN

WATER WHEEL!
WATER BREATHING
SECOND FORM:
SPLAT

BWAAAM
HINOKAMI KAGURA
FLAME DANCE!

LEG TYPE
DESTRUCTIVE DEATH
...WITH MY SWORD...
I BLOCKED IT...
SPKT
CROWN SPLITTER!
FWAM

DID HE GRAZE ME?! JUST BARELY!!
AND SUCH FORCE!!
ELEGANT !!
THAT'S DEVELOPED SWORD TECHNIQUE! WONDERFUL!
STATE YOUR NAME! WHAT IS YOUR NAME?!
I WANT TO REMEMBER IT!!

I DON'T HAVE A NAME TO TELL TO A DEMON.
AND I HATE TALKING, SO DON'T BOTHER.

OH, YOU HATE TALKING?
WELL, I LIKE IT!
SO I'M GONNA ASK YOUR NAME OVER AND OVER!!

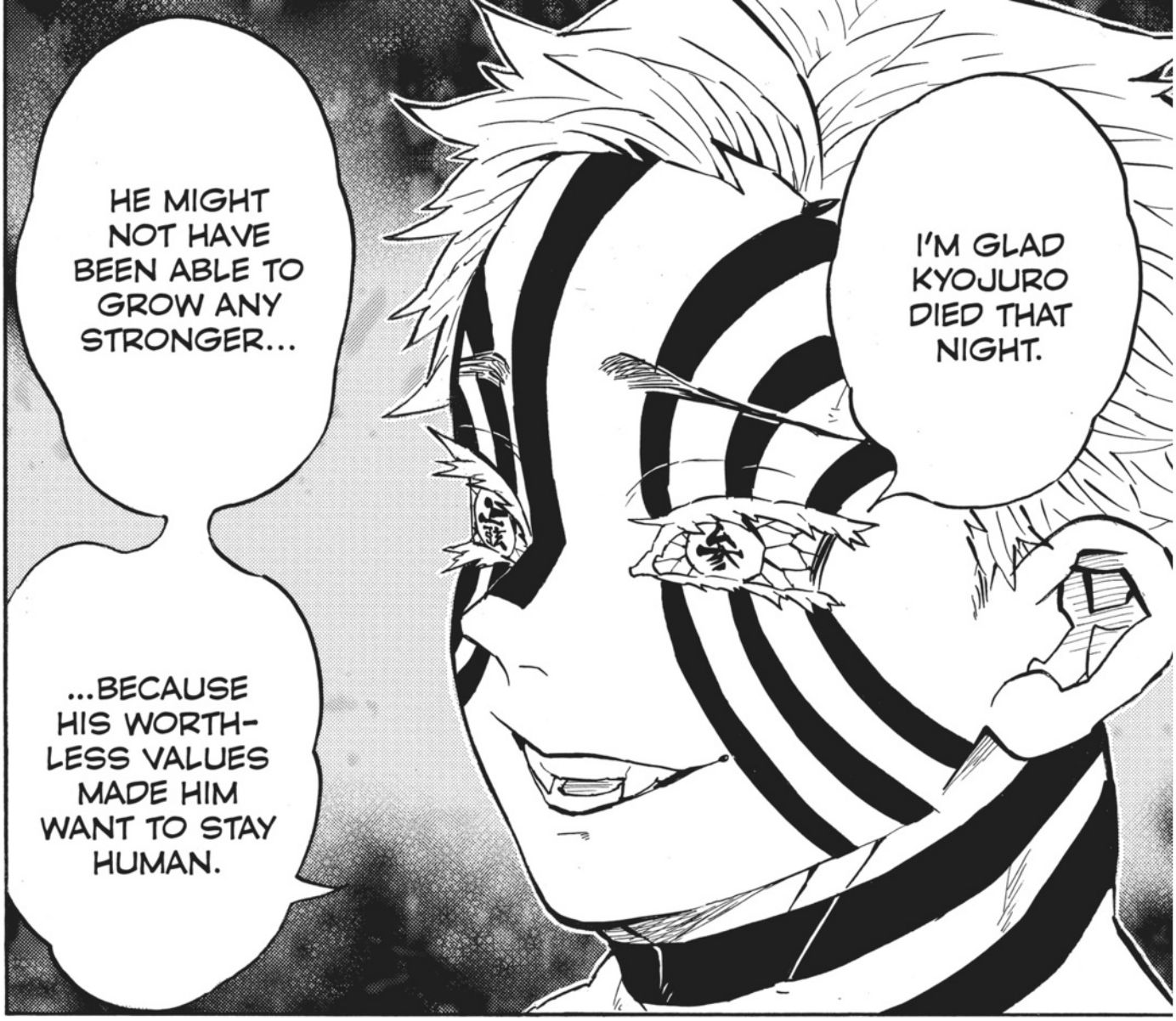
DESTRUC-TIVE DEATH
LEG TYPE

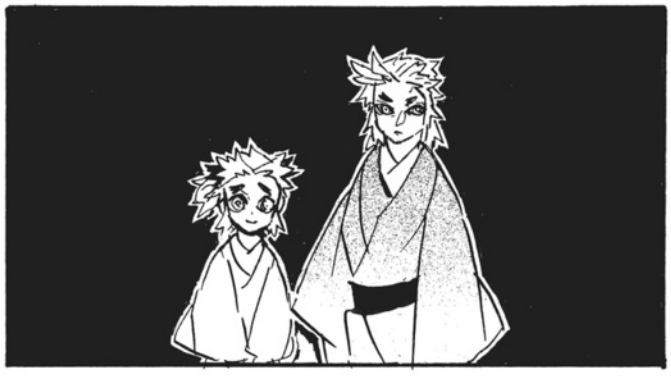
EXPLOSIVE FLURRY!

GIYU!!
OH...
...HIS NAME IS GIYU?
DESTRUC-TIVE DEATH
HINOKAMI KAGURA

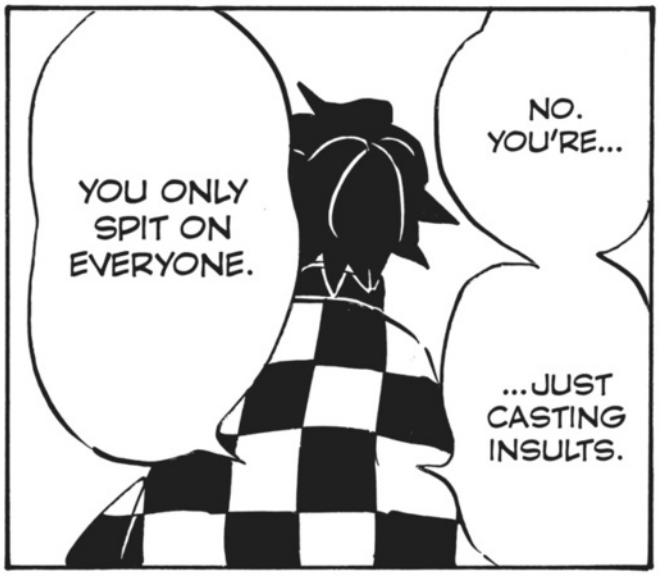
BURNING BONES, SUMMER SUN!
EIGHT-LAYERED DEMON CORE
ドン
ドン

SKID
NICE MOVES.
YOU'VE TRAINED WELL TO REACH THIS LEVEL SO QUICKLY.
MY COMPLIMENTS.
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, KYOJURO DID GOOD WORK.
SNAP
KRK
THAT NIGHT WHEN YOU WERE JUST ROLLING ON THE GROUND, YOU WERE A TOTAL WEAKLING. NOTHING MORE THAN A WEED.
BUT LOOK AT YOU NOW!
YOUR GROWTH IS STUNNING!
HUFF
I AM PERFECTLY HAPPY.
MY HEART DANCES.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


I'M GLAD KYOJURO DIED THAT NIGHT.
HE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GROW ANY STRONGER...
...BECAUSE HIS WORTH-LESS VALUES MADE HIM WANT TO STAY HUMAN.



DON'T TALK ABOUT RENGOKU.
DON'T SAY...
...ANOTHER WORD.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU...


YOU ONLY SPIT ON EVERYONE.
NO. YOU'RE...
...JUST CASTING INSULTS.

YOU AND KYOJURO.
WHY? I'M PRAISING HIM.

I ONLY SPIT ON WEAK-LINGS.
I ONLY DESPISE THE WEAK.
YOU MISUNDER-STAND, TANJIRO.

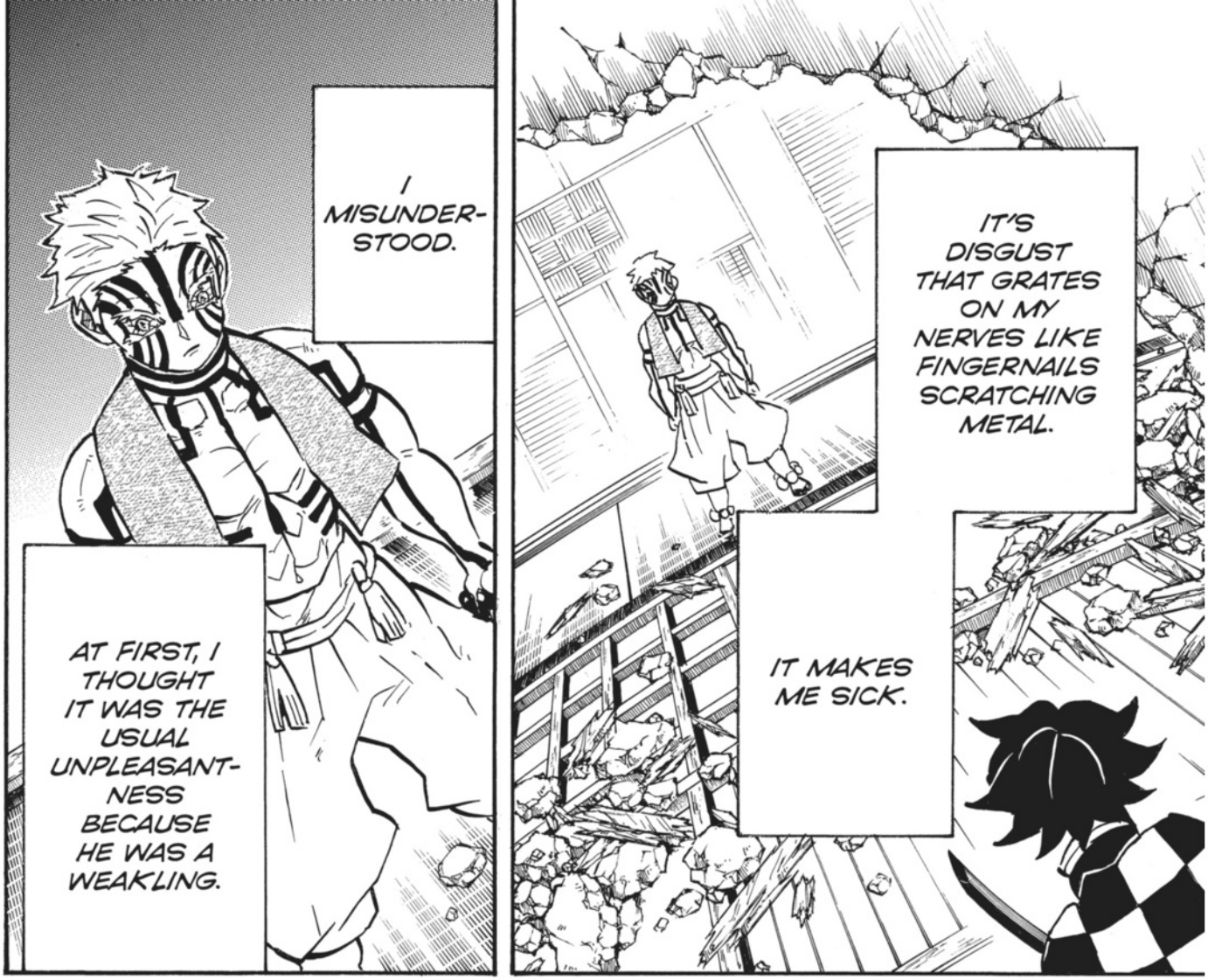
EVERYTHING YOU'RE SAYING IS WRONG.
YOUR PRESENCE HERE NOW IS PROOF.
EVERYONE IS A HELPLESS BABY WHEN THEY'RE BORN.
THEY CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT SOMEONE'S HELP.
YES.
WEAKLINGS MAKE ME SICK.
IT IS THE LAW OF NATURE THAT THEY BE WEEDED OUT.

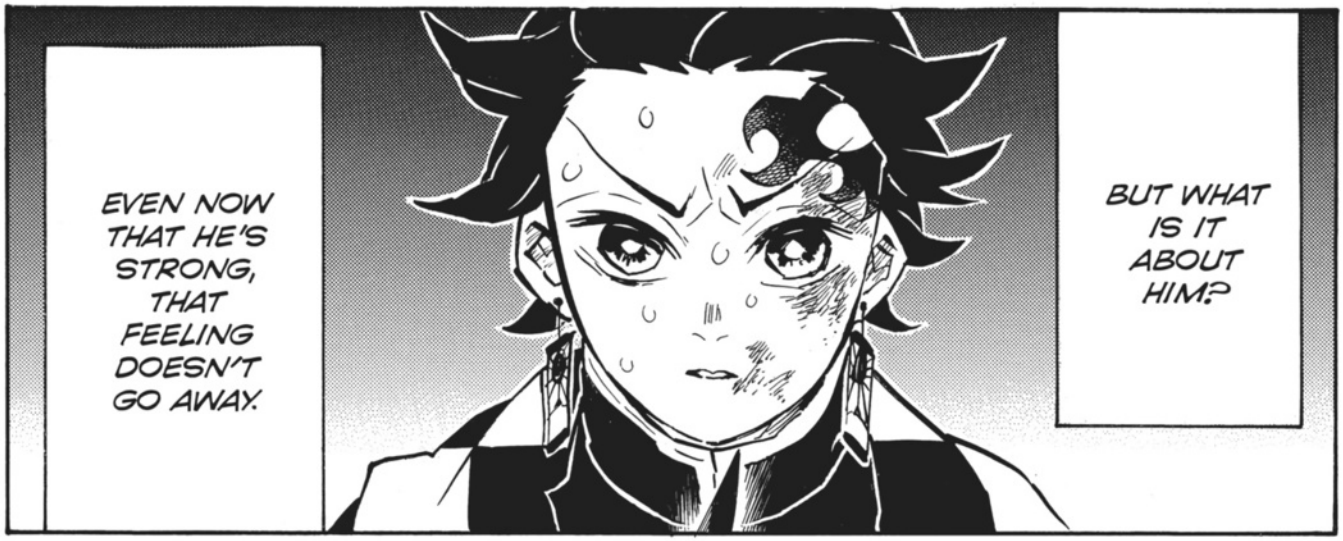
...SOMEONE PROTECTED AND HELPED YOU TOO.
SAME WITH YOU, AKAZA.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT, BUT WHEN YOU WERE A BABY...

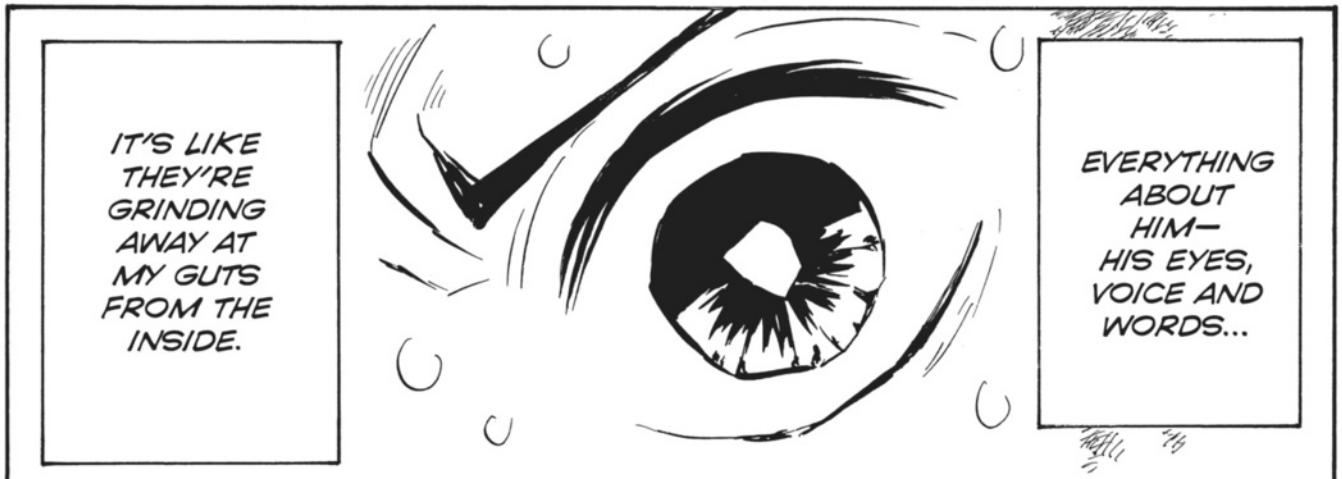
THEN THE WEAK GET STRONGER AND HELP THOSE WEAKER THAN THEMSELVES.
THE STRONG PROTECT THE WEAK.
THAT IS THE LAW OF NATURE!
YOUR DAYS OF DOING WHATEVER YOU LIKE ARE OVER!
I CAN'T FORGIVE YOUR WAY OF THINK-ING!
AKAZA!
TWITCH

Giyu's Crow. He's pretty old,
so he mishears messages,
hobbles around in battle and
makes Giyu worry.

CHAPTER 149: DISGUST


I MISUNDER-STOOD.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS THE USUAL UNPLEASANT-NESS BECAUSE HE WAS A WEAKLING.
IT'S DISGUST THAT GRATES ON MY NERVES LIKE FINGERNAILS SCRATCHING METAL.
IT MAKES ME SICK.


EVEN NOW THAT HE'S STRONG, THAT FEELING DOESN'T GO AWAY.
BUT WHAT IS IT ABOUT HIM?


IT'S LIKE THEY'RE GRINDING AWAY AT MY GUTS FROM THE INSIDE.
EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM— HIS EYES, VOICE AND WORDS...

WHATEVER YOU DO, EVERYONE IS A BABY AT FIRST.
YOU GET HELP FROM OTHERS AND GRADUALLY LEARN.

IF YOU CONTINUE THAT FOR TEN OR 20 YEARS, YOU'LL BE MAGNIFICENT.
AND THEN YOU WILL HELP OTHER PEOPLE.

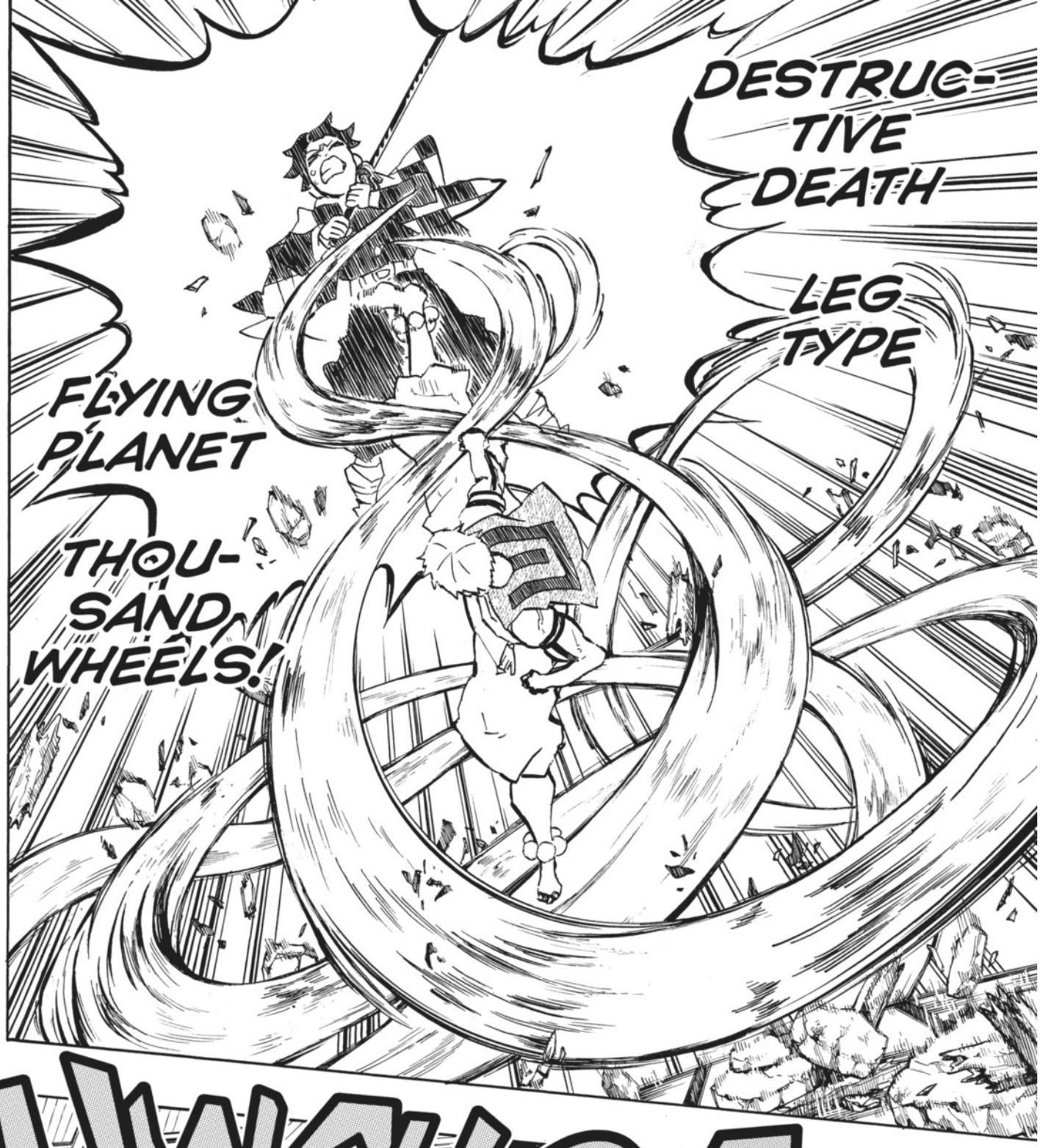
DON'T COMPARE YOURSELF TO OTHER PEOPLE. THE OPPONENT YOU FIGHT IS ALWAYS YOURSELF.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS BECOMING STRONGER THAN YOU WERE YESTERDAY.

GWU
?!

?
WHAT? HE PUNCHED EMPTY SPACE!
TANJIRO, YOU REALLY ARE UN-PLEASANT.
WHOOSH
CRUSH-ING TYPE
DESTRUCTIVE DEATH

WHAM
TEN THOUSAND LEAVES FLASHING WILLOW!
BMP BOMP
WHAM

HE'S INCREDIBLY FAST!
NO, NOT JUST FAST... THIS IS... THIS FEEL-ING... THIS ACCURACY ...
IT'S...
DOWN
BELOW!!


DESTRUC-
TIVE
DEATH
LEG
TYPE
FLYING
PLANET
THOU-
SAND
WHEELS!

HWSHGAH

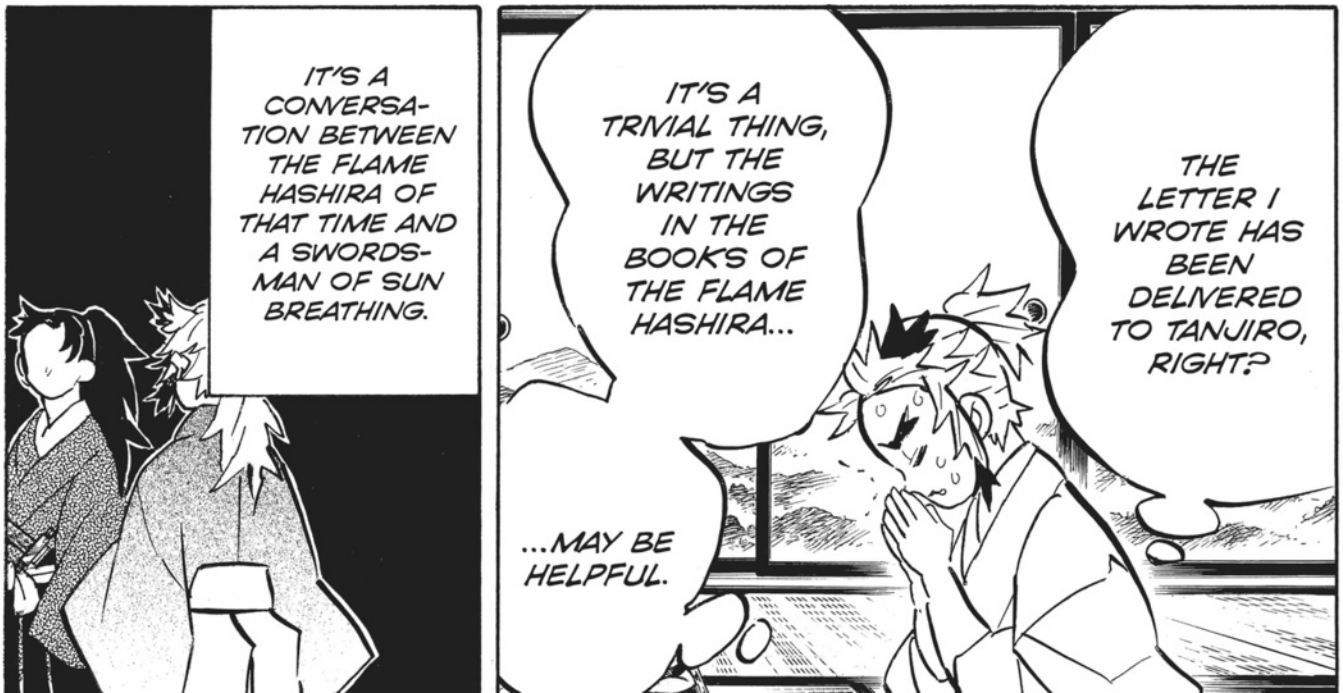
URGH...
EVEN IF I SOMEHOW MANAGE TO PREDICT HIS MOVES AND BLOCK HIS ATTACKS...
...HIS POWER IS TOO AMAZING, SO I CAN'T REDUCE THE DAMAGE!
HIS TECHNIQUES HAVE UNPARALLELED PRECISION!!
HE STABS INTO ANY OPENING WITHOUT FAIL.
IT'S LIKE A MAGNET IS PULLING HIS ATTACKS TOWARD MY VITALS.
WHY?
WHAT COULD IT BE? WHAT IS THAT IN REACTION TO?

HMMM... NO, THANKS.
I CAN TELL YOUR STRENGTH BY LOOKING AT YOU.
YOU'RE A HASHIRA, RIGHT?
YOU'VE DEVELOPED...
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING. FROM WHAT HE'S SAID AND DONE SO FAR...
REMEMBER. THINK.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE HUMAN.
YOU REALLY SHOULD BECOME A DEMON, KYOJURO!
CONCENTRATE ON ME!
FWSH
HINOKAMI KAGURA

SOLAR HEAT HAZE!
SLASH
HOOOOO

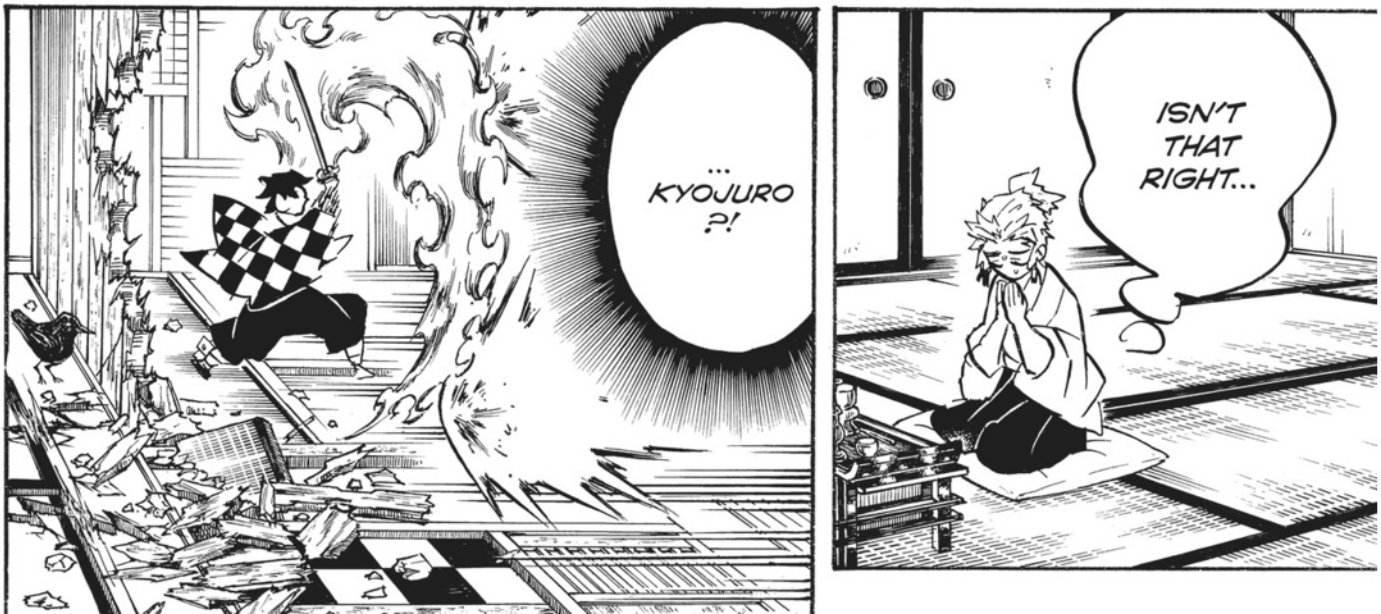
SLASH
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
THE TIP WAVERED LIKE HEAT HAZE. HOW INTEREST-ING!
IT LOOKED LIKE THE BLADE OF YOUR SWORD GOT LONGER. I WAS SURE I'D DODGE IT.
HA HA HA! INTERESTING TECHNIQUE!
THWOOSH

KYOJURO...
A LARGE FIGHT HAS BEGUN.
AND FATHER HAS GONE TO BE WITH MASTER.
PLEASE, PROTECT FATHER AND TANJIRO.
IRMBL
IRMBL
IRMBL


IT'S A CONVERSA-TION BETWEEN THE FLAME HASHIRA OF THAT TIME AND A SWORDS-MAN OF SUN BREATHING.
THE LETTER I WROTE HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO TANJIRO, RIGHT?
IT'S A TRIVIAL THING, BUT THE WRITINGS IN THE BOOKS OF THE FLAME HASHIRA...
...MAY BE HELPFUL.

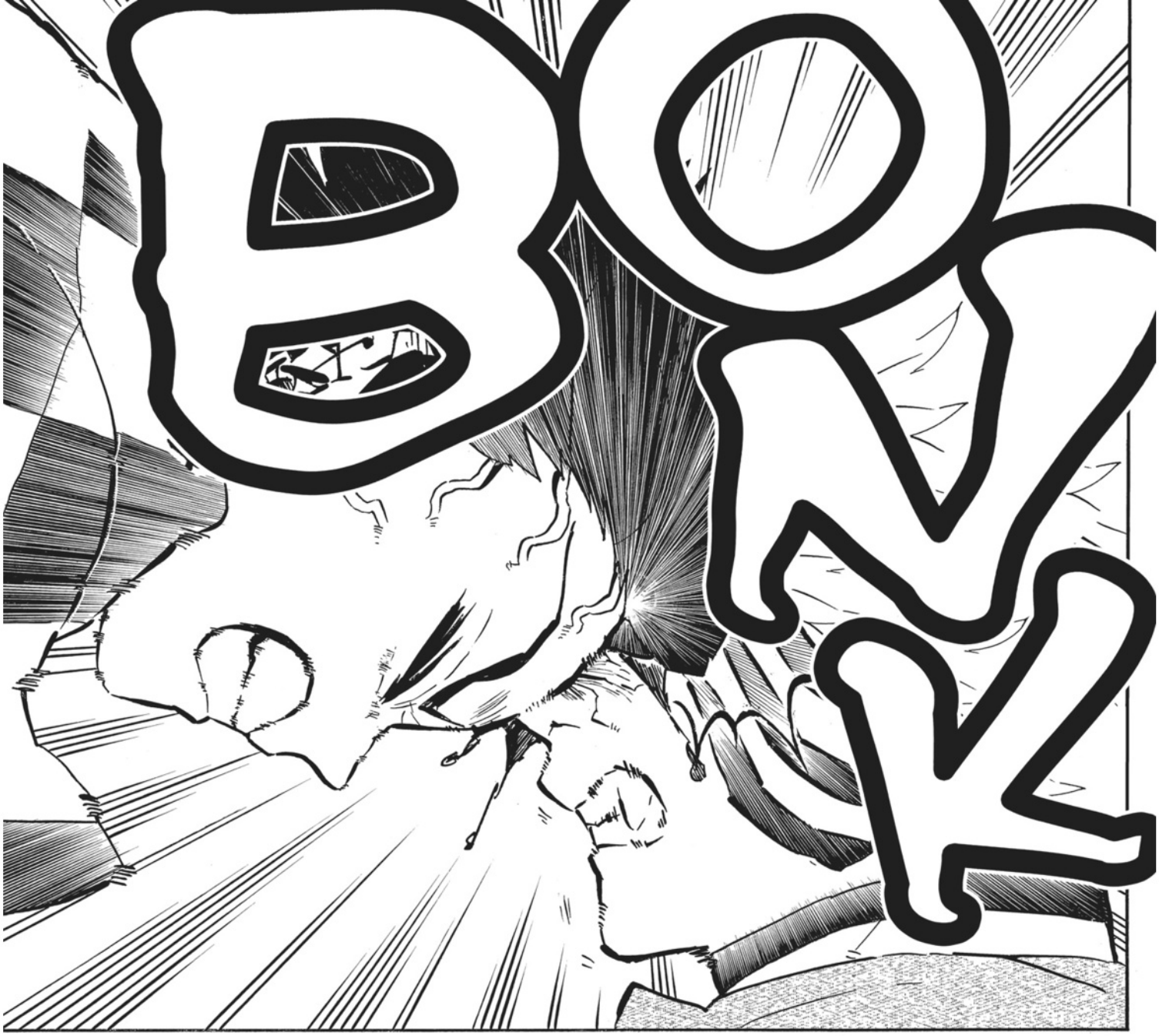
I WROTE IN THE LETTER WHAT THE SWORDSMAN WHO WIELDS SUN BREATHING, THE MOST BASIC TECHNIQUE...
...SAID ABOUT THE TIME HE CONFRONTED MUZAN.

THE FLAME HASHIRA, WHO WAS MY ANCESTOR, LOST CONFIDENCE.
...BUT TANJIRO WON'T LOSE.
HE WILL OPEN A PATH INTO THE FUTURE.


ISN'T THAT RIGHT...
... KYOJURO ?!

SENJURO'S LETTER HAS NOT YET REACHED TANJIRO.
IF HE DOESN'T BEAT AKAZA, HE CAN'T READ IT.
THE FIGHT BEGAN BEFORE IT ARRIVED.
DANCE!
HINOKAMI KAGURA

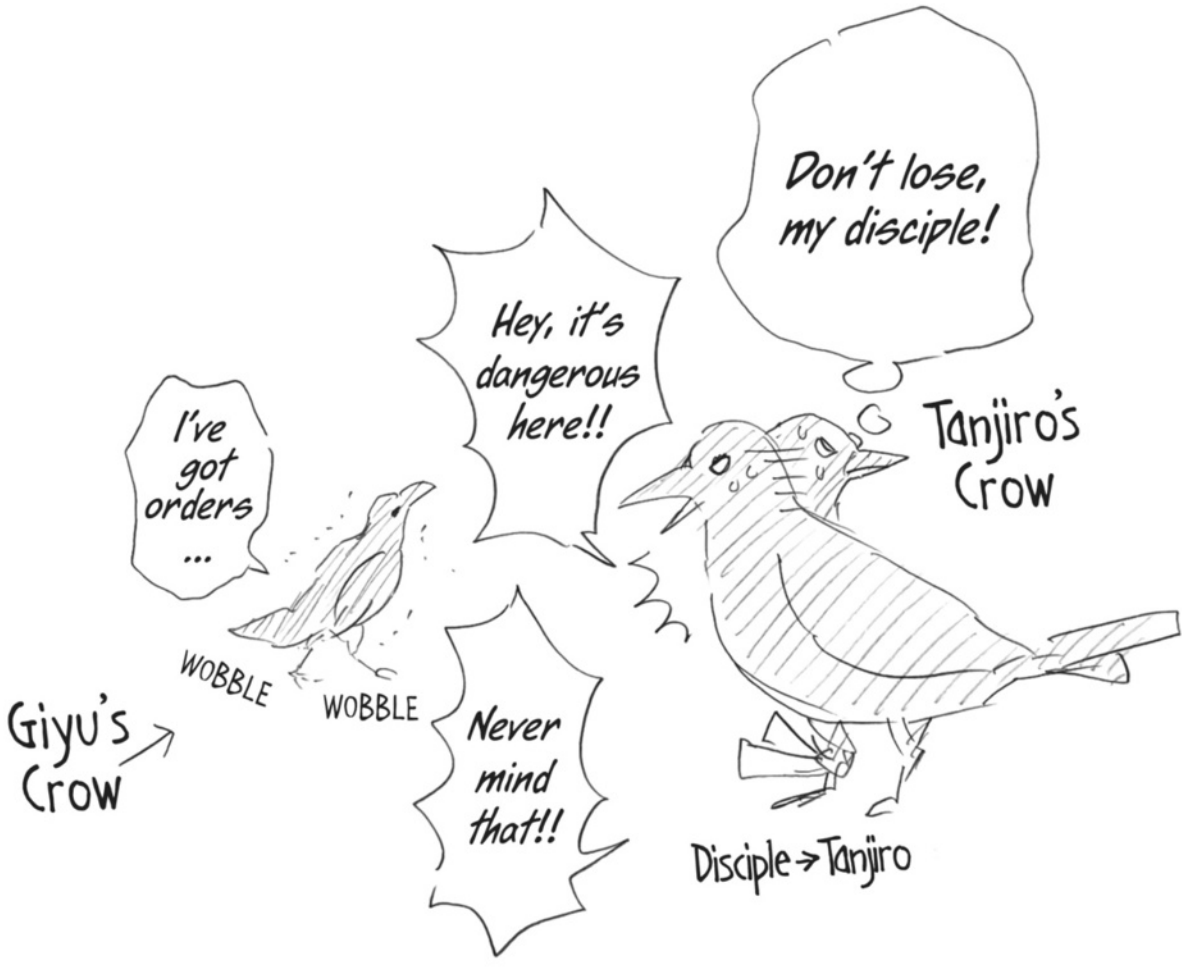
IT'S GONNA BREAK!
UH-OH!!


BOK

LET GO, LET GO!!
GOOD HEAD-BUTT!
GRIP

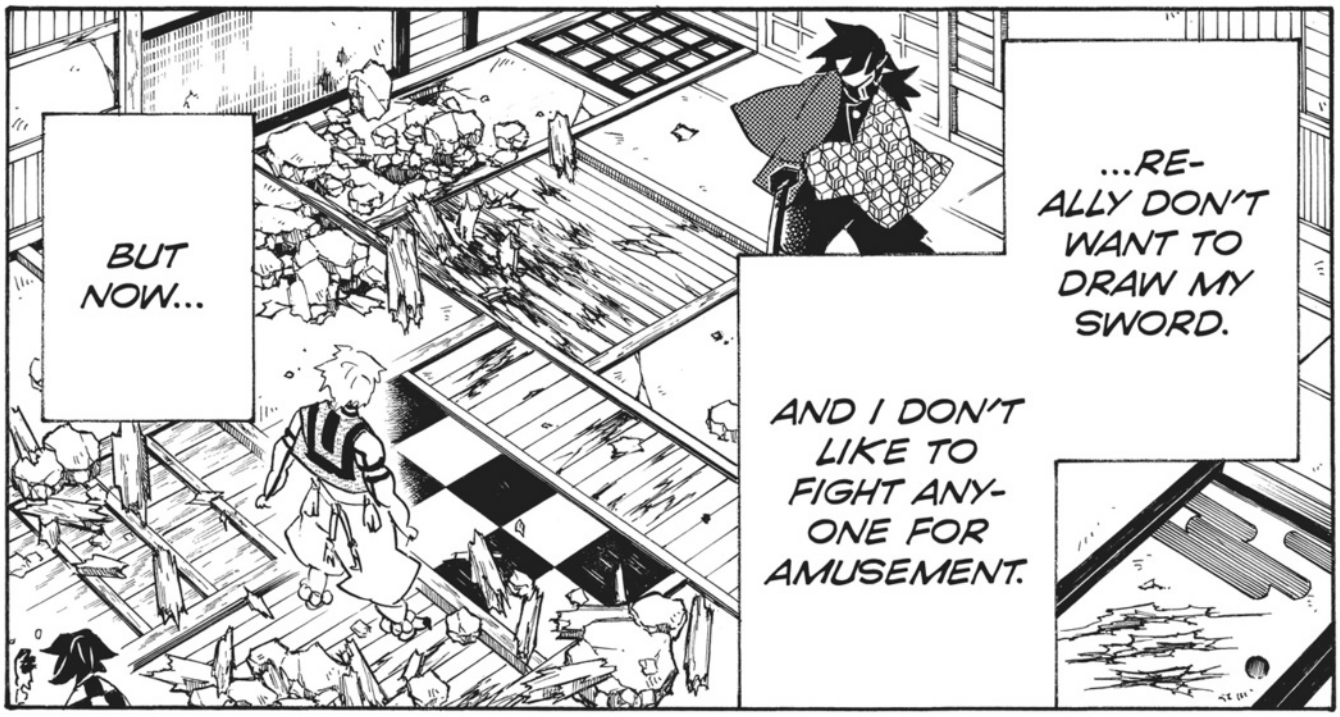
WH
IT'S NO USE!
HIS HANDS...
HE WON'T LET GO!!
GRND
OK

BAM
GIYU !!
NOW I'M MAD.
MY BACK HURTS SOME-THING FIERCE.
YOU REALLY SENT ME FLYING, UPPER RANK 3.
SH
PING
PING

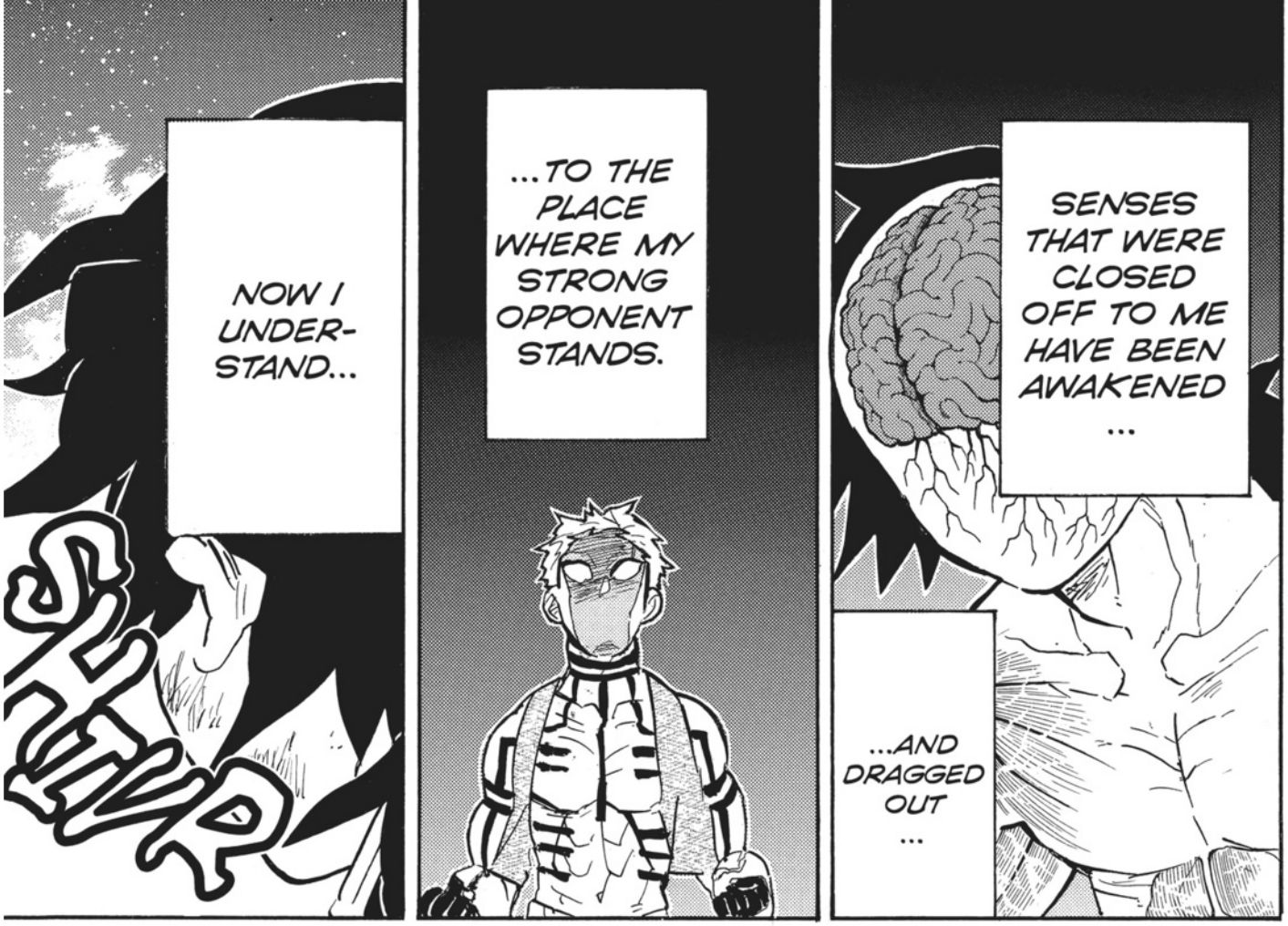

Don't lose, my disciple!
Hey, it's dangerous here!!
I've got orders ...
Tanjiro's Crow
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
Giyu's Crow
Never mind that!!
Disciple → Tanjiro

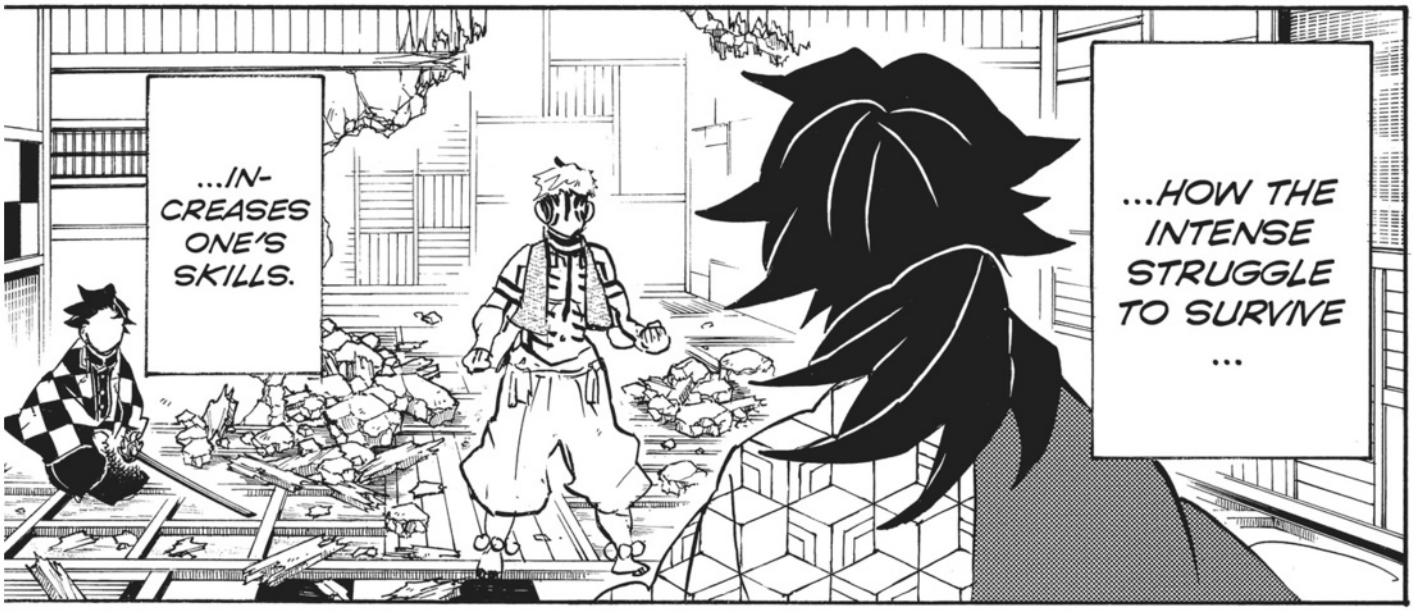
CHAPTER 150: NOTICING

I...
FWOO


BUT NOW...
...REALLY DON'T WANT TO DRAW MY SWORD.
AND I DON'T LIKE TO FIGHT ANYONE FOR AMUSEMENT.

...AND I REALIZE THAT MY SENSES HAVE BEEN SHARPLY HONED IN A SHORT TIME.
...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE, I'M UP AGAINST A STRONG OPPONENT WHO CAN OVERWHELM ME...


SHIN
NOW I UNDER-STAND...
...TO THE PLACE WHERE MY STRONG OPPONENT STANDS.
SENSES THAT WERE CLOSED OFF TO ME HAVE BEEN AWAKENED ...
...AND DRAGGED OUT ...


...IN-CREASES ONE'S SKILLS.
...HOW THE INTENSE STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE ...

GIYU...

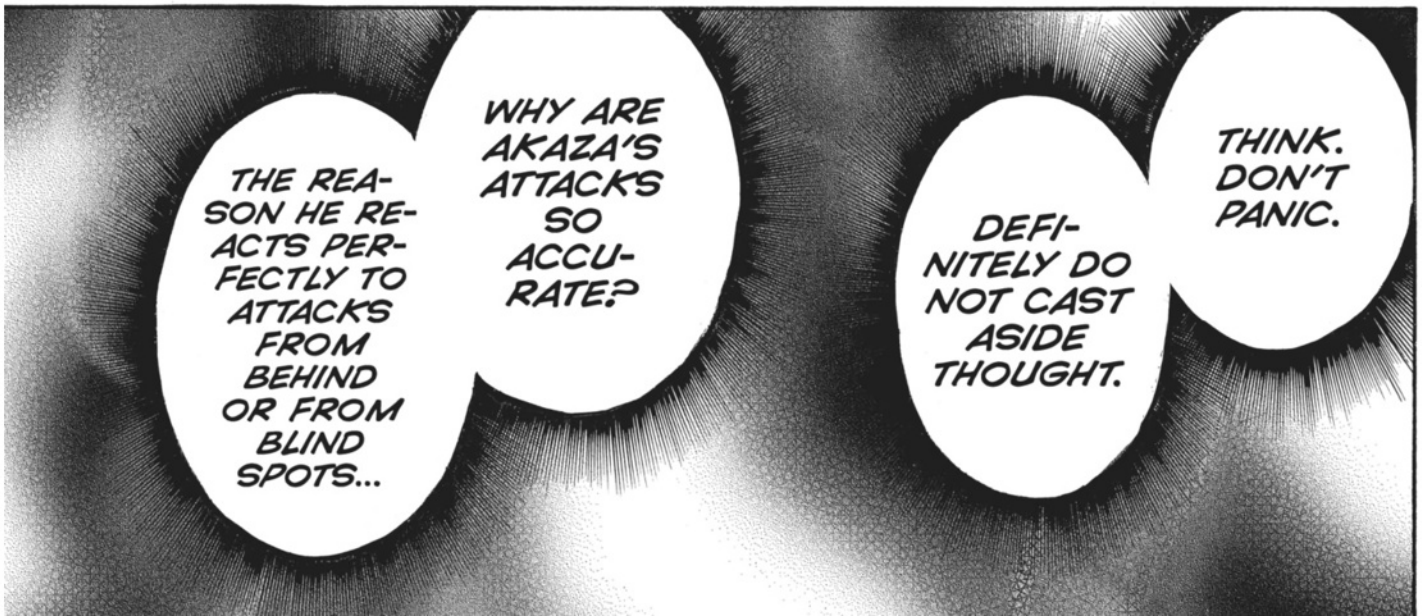
WHOOM
HIS MARK MANIFESTED!
AND HIS SPEED...
...HAS IN-CREASED !!

DO
FOURTH FORM:
WATER BREATHING
STRIKING TIDE!
NI E

SPLURT
SPLAT
THEY'RE BOTH...
...SO FAST!
BUT...
...AKAZA QUICKLY ADAPTED TO GIYU'S INCREASED SPEED.

IN A DRAWN-OUT FIGHT, A HUMAN'S AT A HUGE DISADVANTAGE! HIS STRENGTH WON'T LAST FOREVER.
BESIDES, OUR GOAL IS TO DEFEAT MUZAN.
WE CAN'T SPEND ALL NIGHT FIGHTING AKAZA.
AND IF WE DON'T HURRY, TAMAYO WILL...
HURRY!
TAKE HIM OUT! FAST!
TRMBL
TRMBL
IF WE DON'T HURRY, EVERYONE WILL DIE!

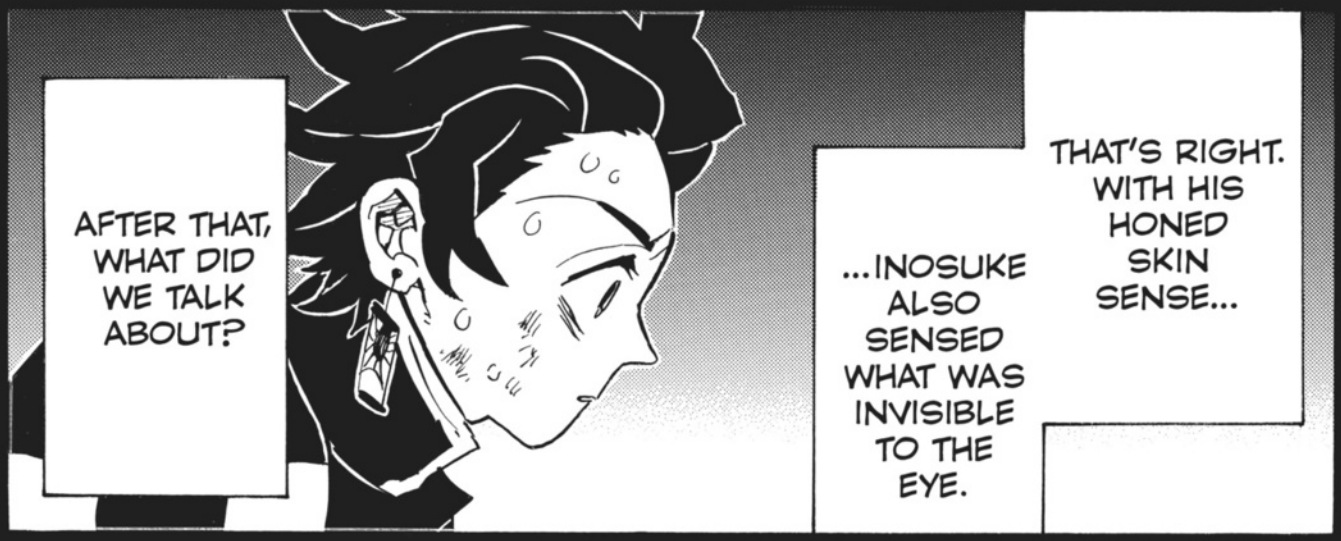
CALM DOWN!!


THINK. DON'T PANIC.
DEFINITELY DO NOT CAST ASIDE THOUGHT.
WHY ARE AKAZA'S ATTACKS SO ACCURATE?
THE REASON HE REACTS PERFECTLY TO ATTACKS FROM BEHIND OR FROM BLIND SPOTS...

YOU HAVE DEVEL-OPED ...
...YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT...
...NEARLY TO THE DOMAIN OF SUPREMACY.
WHAT IS FIGHTING SPIRIT?
JUST LIKE I CAN SENSE THINGS BY SMELL...
...CAN AKAZA SENSE FIGHTING SPIRIT?
IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST RENGOKU, AKAZA SAID "FIGHTING SPIRIT."
I CAN TELL YOUR STRENGTH BY LOOKING AT YOU.
...TO THE EDGE OF PERFEC-TION.
...YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT...

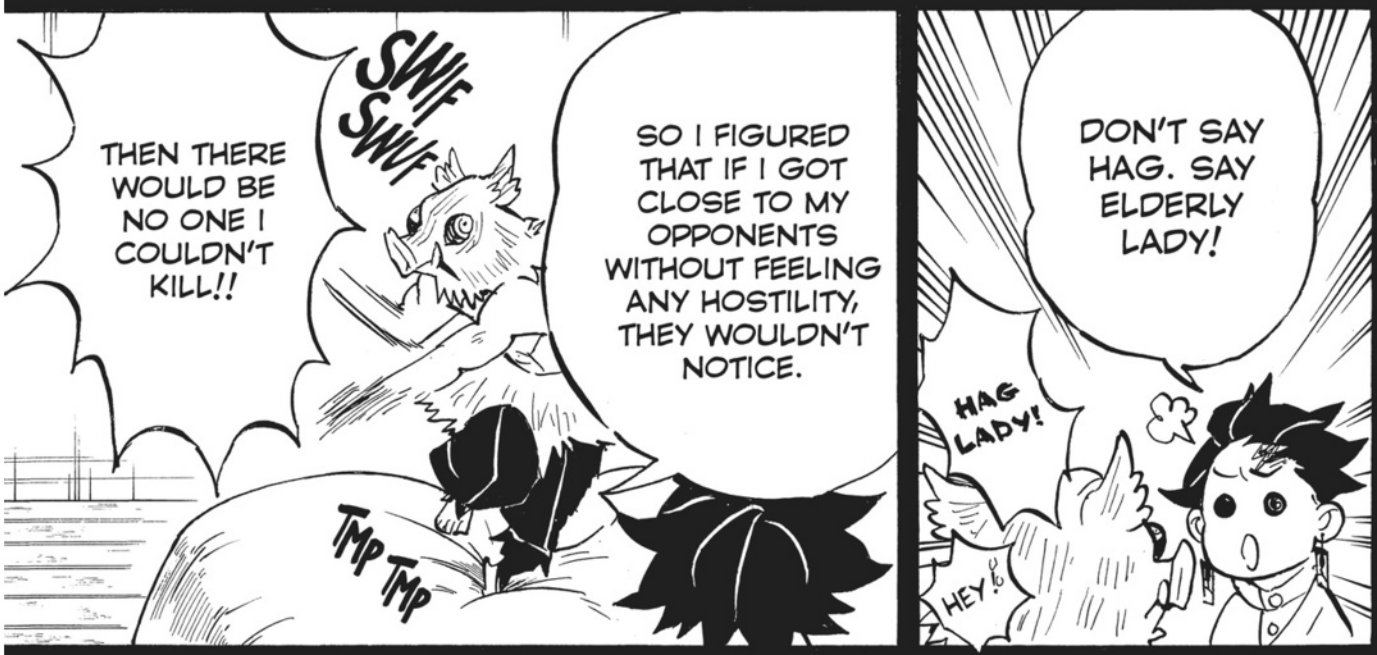
SNORT
I FEEL A TINGLE...
...WHERE AN OPPONENT IS AIMING.
...SO EVEN IF IT'S FROM BEHIND, IF SOMEONE LOOKS AT ME, I KNOW THEY'RE LOOKING.
HEH HEH HEH
MY HIDE IS STRONGER THAN A HUMAN'S...
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS FROM BEHIND. WOW!
INOSUKE, THAT'S WHY YOU NOTICED GYUTARO'S ATTACK.
WOW! YOU'RE RIGHT!
YOU'RE LOOKING AT MY RIGHT SHOULDER!
SHAARE
HEH HEH HEH HEH! OKAY!
DO IT AND SHOW ME!
FLIP

BA HA HAA AH
THEIR INTENT STABS INTO MY HIDE!
ESPECIALLY IF SOMEONE IS LOOKING AT ME WITH THE INTENT TO KILL, I CAN TELL IMMEDIATELY!
IF SOMETHING IS GOING TO HURT ME, IT'S DANGEROUS!

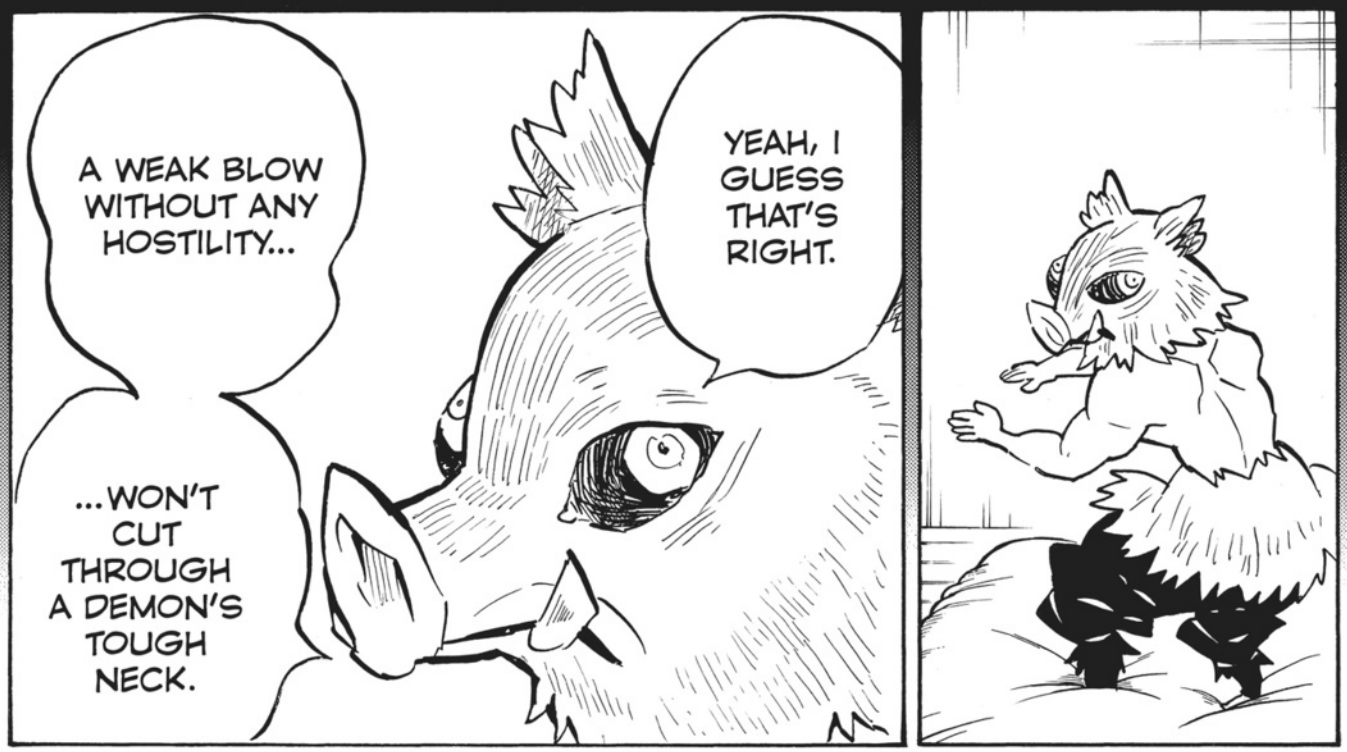

AFTER THAT, WHAT DID WE TALK ABOUT?
...INOSUKE ALSO SENSED WHAT WAS INVISIBLE TO THE EYE.
THAT'S RIGHT. WITH HIS HONED SKIN SENSE...

BAM
THAT LITTLE HAG!
...IT'S HARD TO NOTICE!
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, WHEN SOMEONE DOESN'T HAVE ANY HOSTILITY...

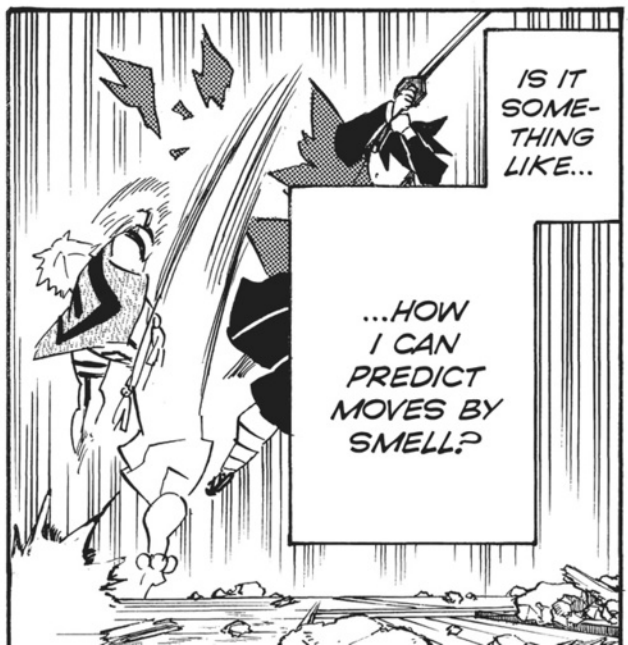
SUDDENLY, SHE WAS SITTING BEHIND ME WITH RICE BALLS!!
THAT OLD HAG IN THE HOUSE WITH THE WISTERIA CREST WAS THE WORST!!


THEN THERE WOULD BE NO ONE I COULDN'T KILL!!
SNIF SNIF
SO I FIGURED THAT IF I GOT CLOSE TO MY OPONENTS WITHOUT FEELING ANY HOSTILITY, THEY WOULDN'T NOTICE.
TMP TMP
DON'T SAY HAG. SAY ELDERLY LADY!
HAG LADY!
HEY!

I THINK IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO KILL A DEMON WITHOUT ANY HOSTILITY.
HMM. BUT...
...THAT WAS BECAUSE THAT ELDERLY LADY DIDN'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF HARMING YOU, RIGHT?


A WEAK BLOW WITHOUT ANY HOSTILITY...
YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S RIGHT.
...WON'T CUT THROUGH A DEMON'S TOUGH NECK.

TIME SPENT TRAINING? HOW MUCH TRAINING?
THE WILL TO FIGHT?


IS IT SOME-THING LIKE...
...HOW I CAN PREDICT MOVES BY SMELL?

IT WAS A SILLY CONVERSATION, BUT I FEEL LIKE THERE WAS SOME KIND OF POINT.
WHAT IS THE FIGHTING SPIRIT THAT I THINK AKAZA SENSES?
IS IT DIFFERENT FROM THE INTENT TO KILL?

...AKAZA'S FIGHTING COMPASS?
COULD THERE BE A WAY TO THROW OFF...
THWAK!
GASP
HINOKAMI KAGURA

DANCE!

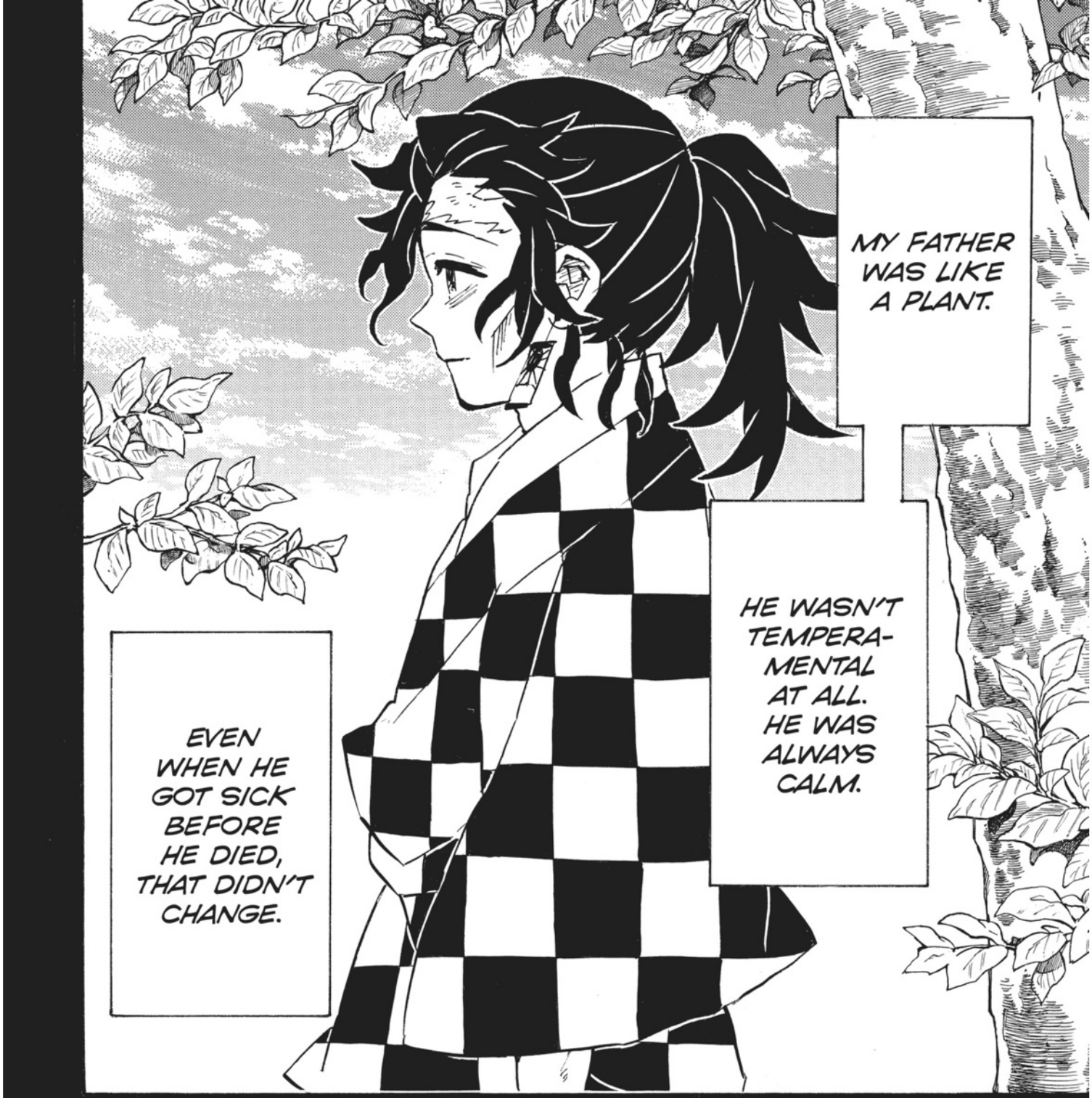
RIP
YOUR BODY'S WIDE OPEN, TANJIRO!!
THERE!!

ZLCH

WHMP
BAM
BAM
FWAM
WHAM
IMPOS-
SIBLE.
DOMAIN OF
SUPREMACY
BAMP
COM-
PASS.
MALEVO-
LENCE.
SENSE.
BAMP
FIGHTING
SPIRIT.
BAMP
MAGNET.
BAMP
I SEE!
THAT'S
IT!

Inosuke taking Tanjiro's food. Kiyo set it in front of him, so he thought it was his. He wasn't being mean.

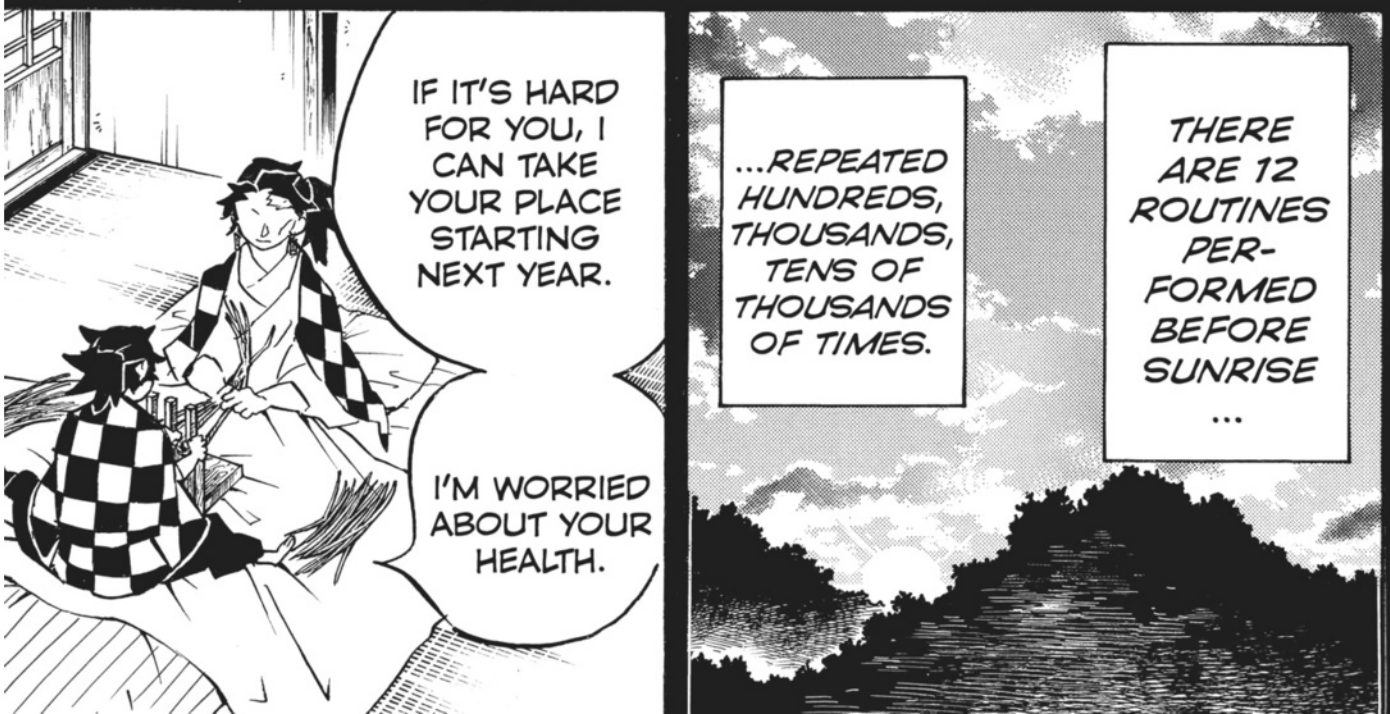
CHAPTER 151: THE SOUND OF BELLS ON A SNOWY MOONLIT NIGHT


MY FATHER WAS LIKE A PLANT.
HE WASN'T TEMPERA-MENTAL AT ALL. HE WAS ALWAYS CALM.
EVEN WHEN HE GOT SICK BEFORE HE DIED, THAT DIDN'T CHANGE.

WHEN I THINK OF MY FATHER, THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND IS HIS GENTLE SMILE...
...AND CALM VOICE, LIKE THE STREAMLET OF A RIVER.

FATHER, WHEN YOU DANCE THE *HINOKAMI KAGURA*...
...WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

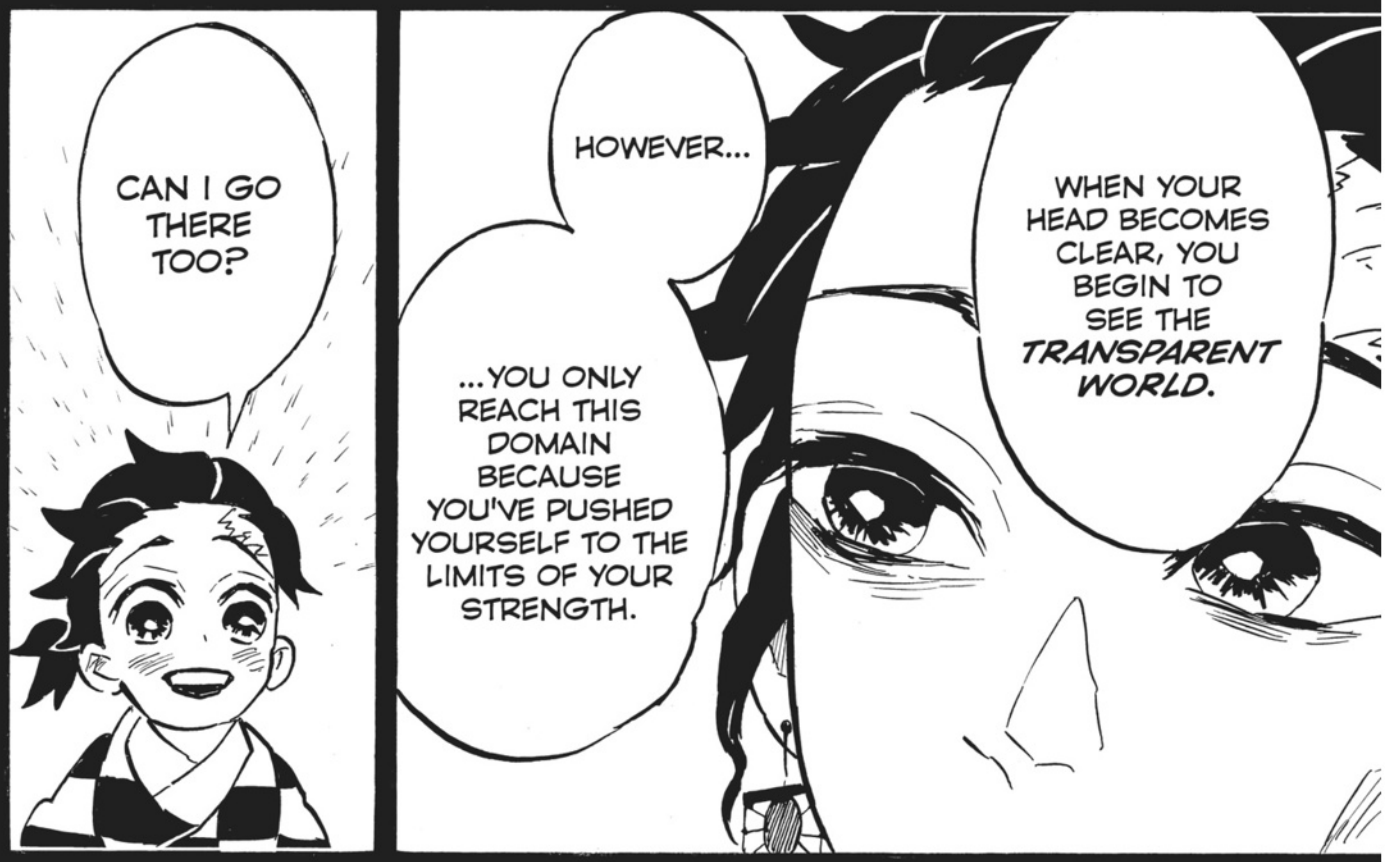
THE KAGURA THAT HOUSE KAMADO HAS PERFORMED AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY YEAR FOR GENERATIONS...
...IS DEMANDING, LASTING FROM SUNSET TO SUNRISE.


THERE ARE 12 ROUTINES PER-FORMED BEFORE SUNRISE ...
...REPEATED HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TIMES.
IF IT'S HARD FOR YOU, I CAN TAKE YOUR PLACE STARTING NEXT YEAR.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HEALTH.

IT'S STRANGE.
WHEN I FIRST JUST LEARNED THE KAGURA FROM YOUR GRAND-FATHER...
...I WAS YOUNGER, HEALTHIER AND STRON-GER THAN NOW...
...BUT BACK THEN, I RAN OUT OF BREATH AND FOUND IT HARD.
THANK YOU, TANJIRO.
BUT FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS...
...I HAVEN'T FELT THE KAGURA WAS DIFFICULT.
I SUPPOSE THAT WAS BECAUSE I MADE A LOT OF UNNECESSARY MOVEMENTS.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS PROPER BREATHING AND PROPER CONTROL...
...MAKING THE MOST EFFICIENT MOVES TO EXERT THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF STRENGTH.
WHEN YOU DO THAT...
...YOUR HEAD GRADUALLY BECOMES CLEAR.

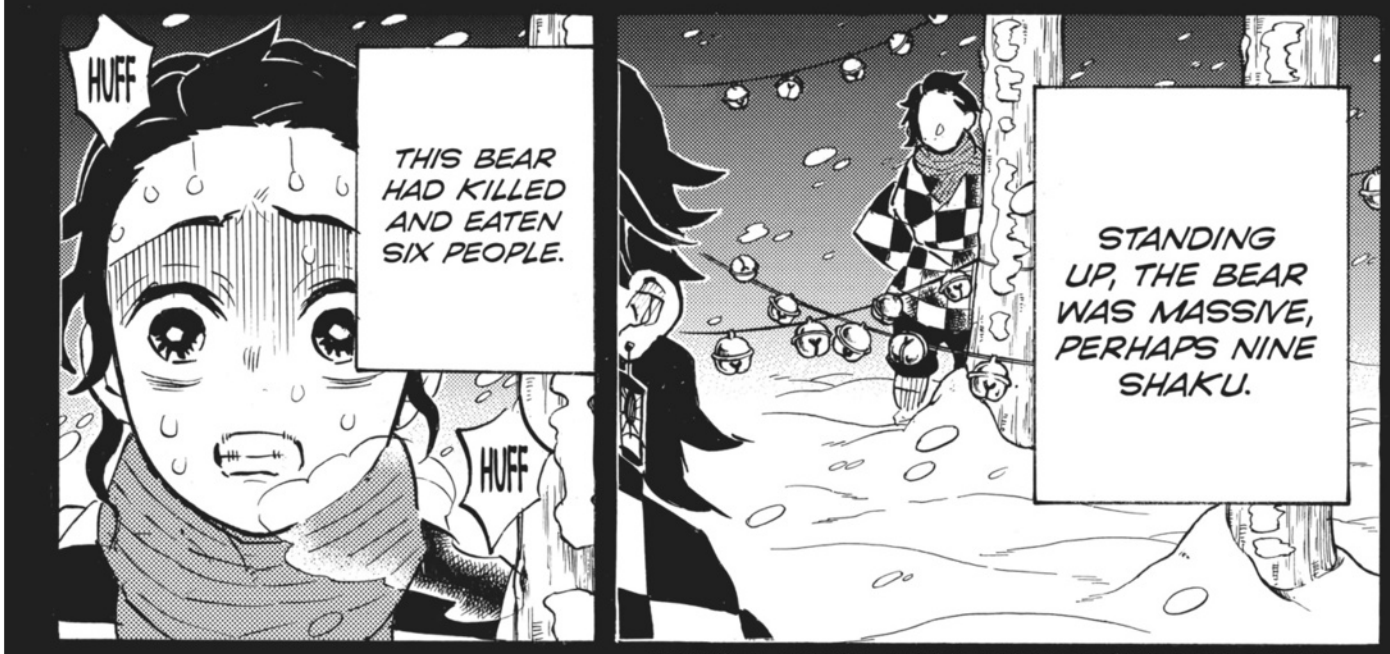
IN THE BEGINNING, YOU MUST LEARN...
...THE MOVES AND SENSIBILI-TIES.
YOU MUST PICK THEM UP.
CLEAR...
YOU OPEN YOUR FIVE SENSES, BECOMING CONSCIOUS OF YOUR OWN BODY DOWN TO EACH AND EVERY BLOOD VESSEL.
THIS PERIOD IS TRULY STRENUOUS, AND YOU WILL THINK...
...THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STRUGGLE, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO FURTHER.
AFTER YOU HAVE LEARNED AND ABSORBED MANY THINGS, YOU CUT AWAY WHAT IS UNNECESSARY.
YOU LEAVE ONLY WHAT IS NECESSARY IN YOUR MOVEMENT AND CLOSE YOURSELF.
CLOSE?
WHEN PEOPLE TRY TO LISTEN CLOSELY, THEY CLOSE THEIR EYES, RIGHT?
JUST LIKE THAT, YOU FOCUS ON WHAT IS MOST NECESSARY IN THAT MOMENT.

AND THEN YOU CAN OPEN AN ILLUMINATED PATH.
...AS QUICKLY AND EASILY AS BLINKING.
BEFORE LONG, YOU BECOME ABLE TO OPEN AND CLOSE THE BLOOD VESSELS AND MUSCLES THROUGHOUT YOUR BODY...

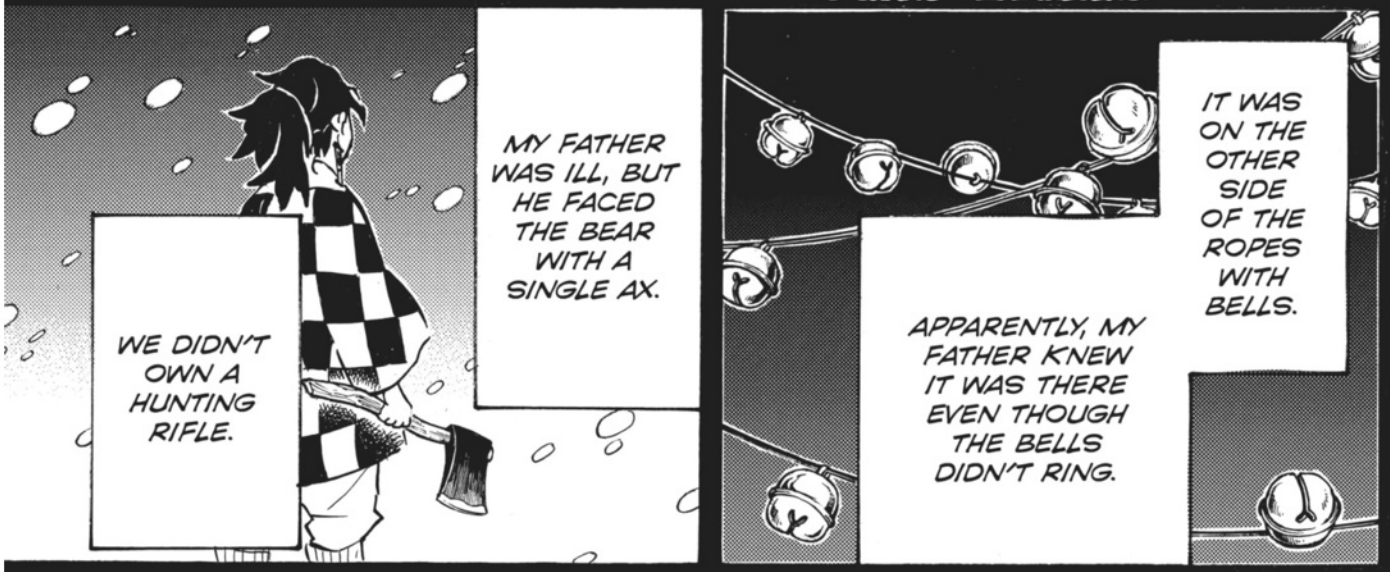

CAN I GO THERE TOO?
HOWEVER...
...YOU ONLY REACH THIS DOMAIN BECAUSE YOU'VE PUSHED YOURSELF TO THE LIMITS OF YOUR STRENGTH.
WHEN YOUR HEAD BECOMES CLEAR, YOU BEGIN TO SEE THE *TRANSPARENT WORLD*.

THANK YOU.
HERE. THEY'RE DONE.
IF YOU CONTINUE WORKING DILIGENTLY.

WE LIT WATCH FIRES AND HUNG ROPES WITH BELLS AROUND THE HOUSE.
TEN DAYS BEFORE HE DIED...
...A BEAR ATTACKED AND ATE SOMEONE ON THE NEXT MOUNTAIN OVER.
TANJIRO.
RUB
?
COME WITH ME.
YES?
HM?



*SHAKU: AN OLD JAPANESE UNIT OF MEASUREMENT. 9 SHAKU = 2.72 METERS.


WE DIDN'T OWN A HUNTING RIFLE.
MY FATHER WAS ILL, BUT HE FACED THE BEAR WITH A SINGLE AX.
APPARENTLY, MY FATHER KNEW IT WAS THERE EVEN THOUGH THE BELLS DIDN'T RING.
IT WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROPES WITH BELLS.

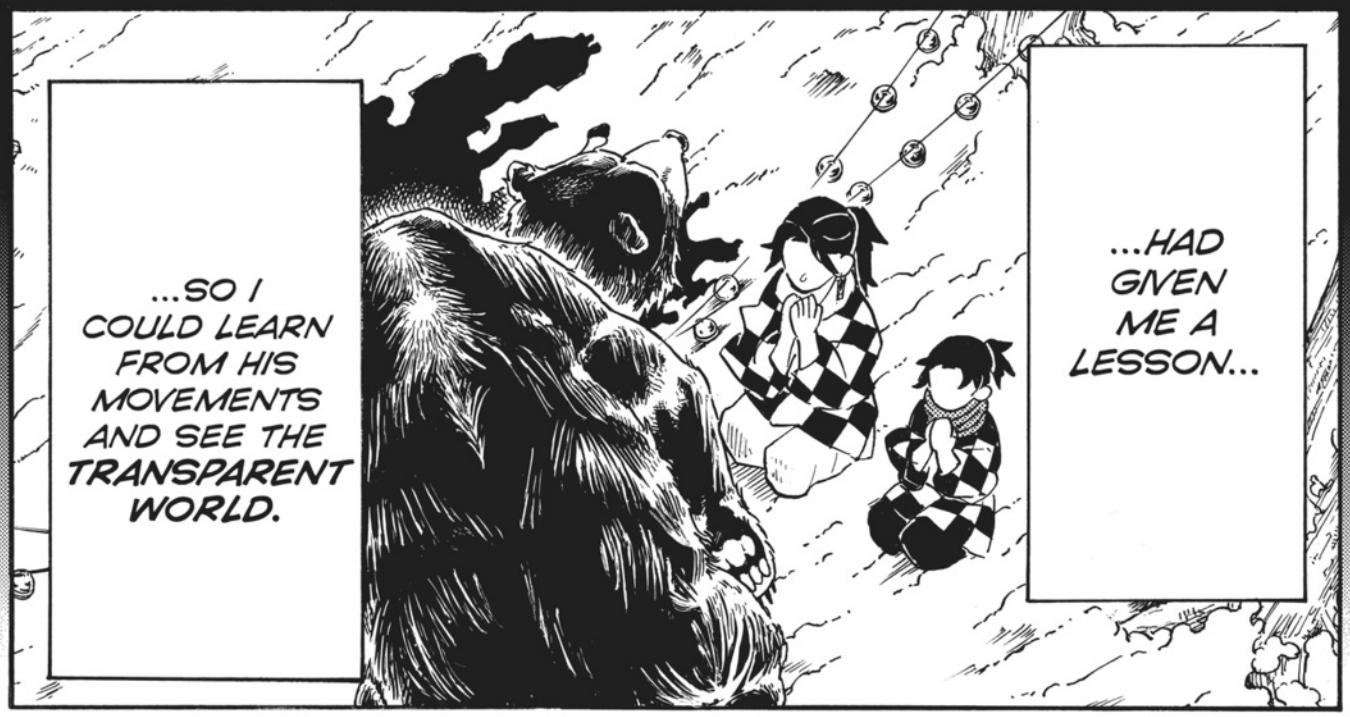
HEED MY WARNING...
I WILL SHOW NO MERCY TO ANYONE WHO WOULD HARM MY FAMILY...
...NO MATTER THE ODDS.
...OR I WILL STEAL YOUR LIFE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
FATHER, WHAT...
FATHER...

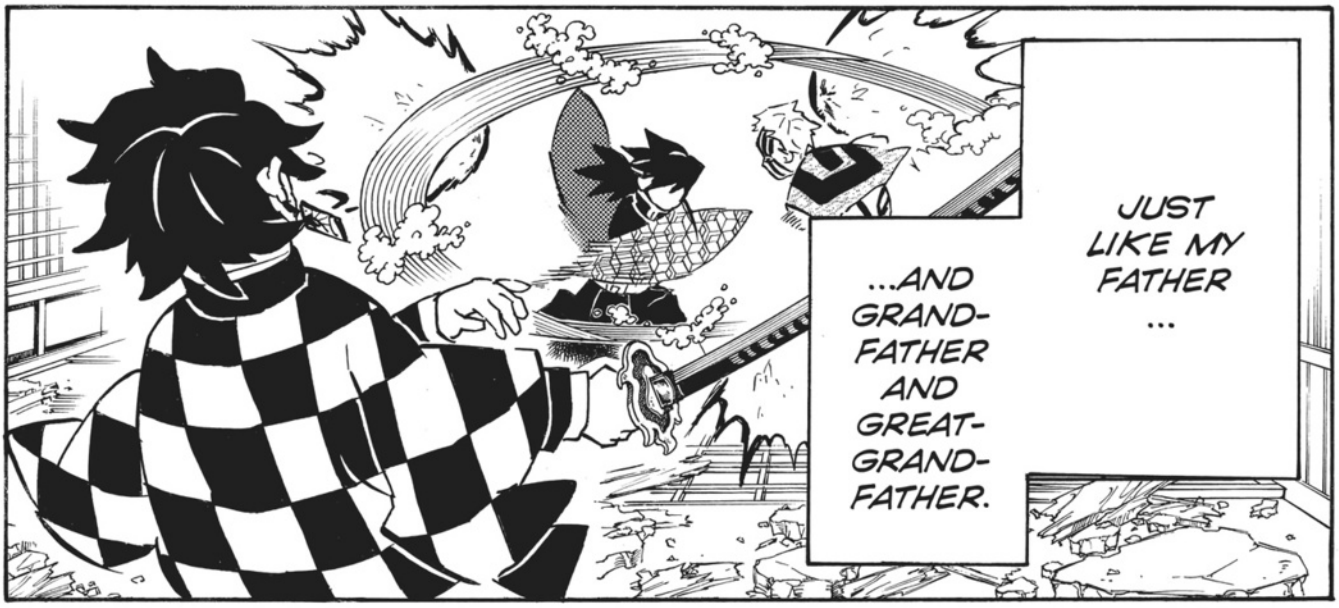
OOOH
CHUNG

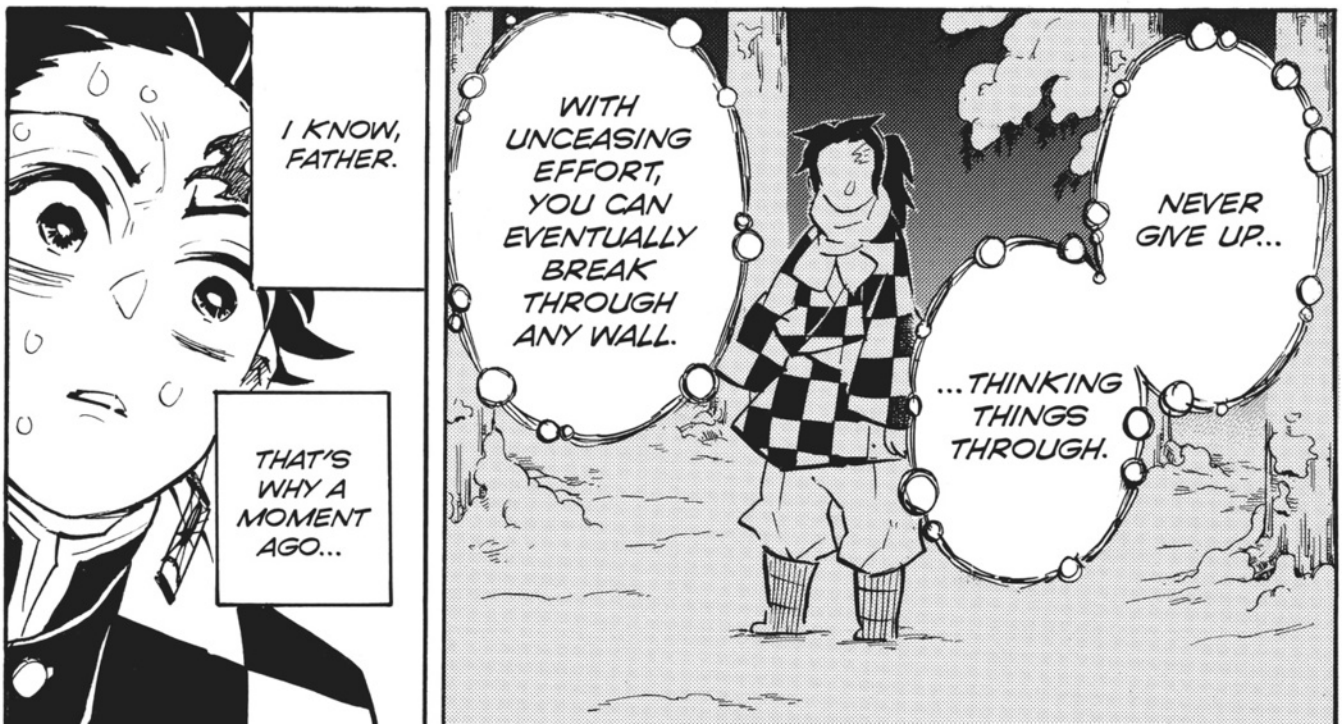
CH
ING

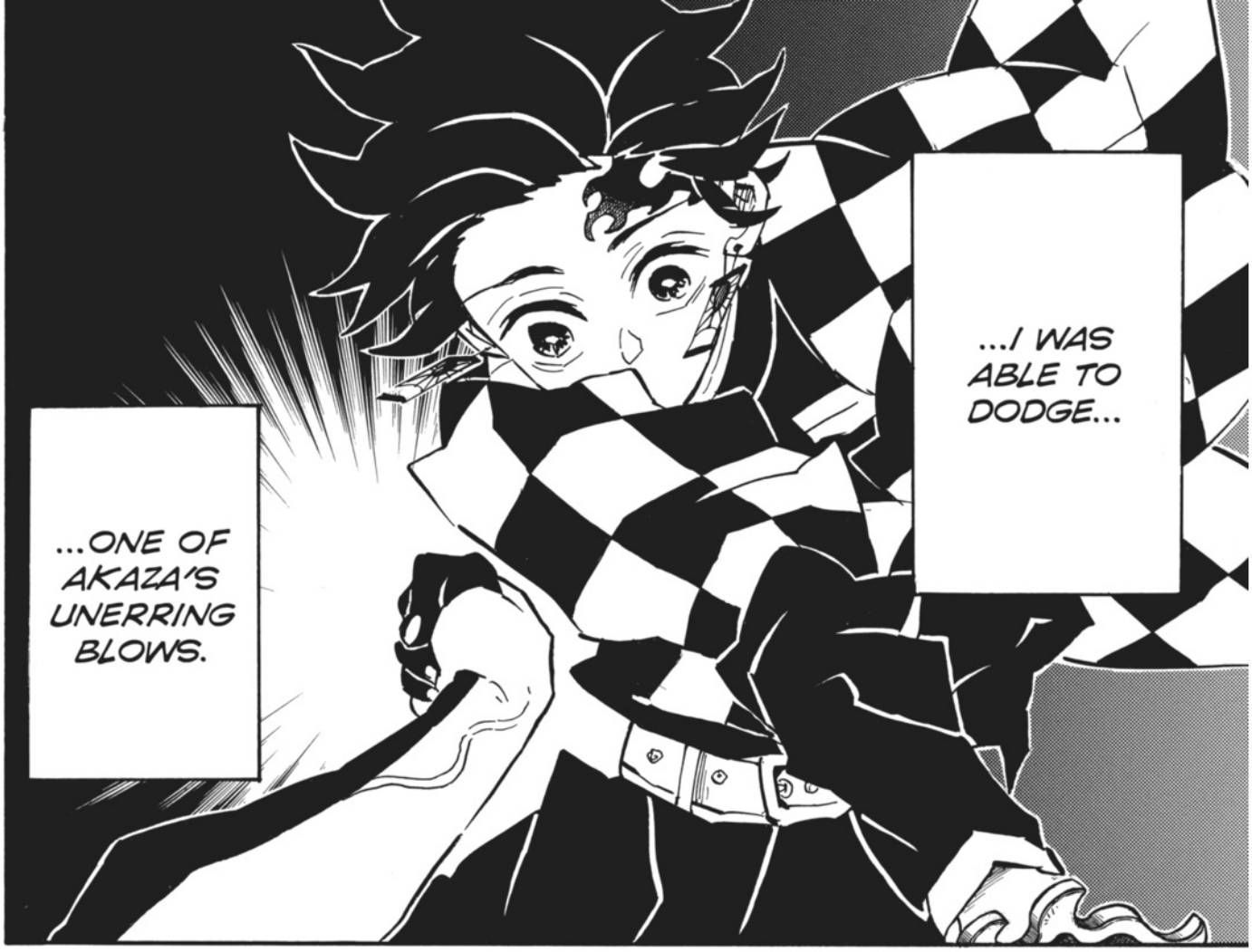
...FELL TO THE GROUND.
WITH THE CHIME OF A BELL, THE BEAR'S HEAD, THICK AS A MAN'S BODY...
MY FATHER'S SCENT DIDN'T CHANGE EVEN A LITTLE.
OTHERWISE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO CUT OFF ITS HEAD WITH AN AX OF THAT SIZE.
I COULDN'T FOLLOW IT, BUT I THINK MY FATHER MADE TWO CUTS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
ONLY MY FATHER WAS THERE, WITH HIS USUAL CALM.
...AND NO ILL WILL.
BEFORE AND AFTER SEVERING THE BEAR'S HEAD, THERE WAS NO FEAR...

DID YOU OBSERVE PROPERLY?
I SAW.
I...
...SAW IT.
FATHER ...
ARE ...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE.
DO NOT FORGET WHAT YOU JUST SAW.
HE WAS NOT ONE TO BOAST UNNECESSARILY OF HIS OWN STRENGTH.
LATER, I NOTICED...
...THAT HE...

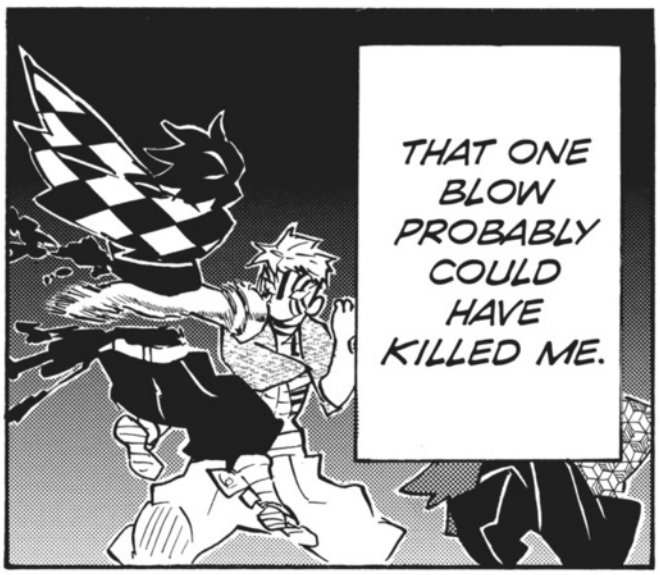

...HAD GIVEN ME A LESSON...
...SO I COULD LEARN FROM HIS MOVEMENTS AND SEE THE TRANSPARENT WORLD.

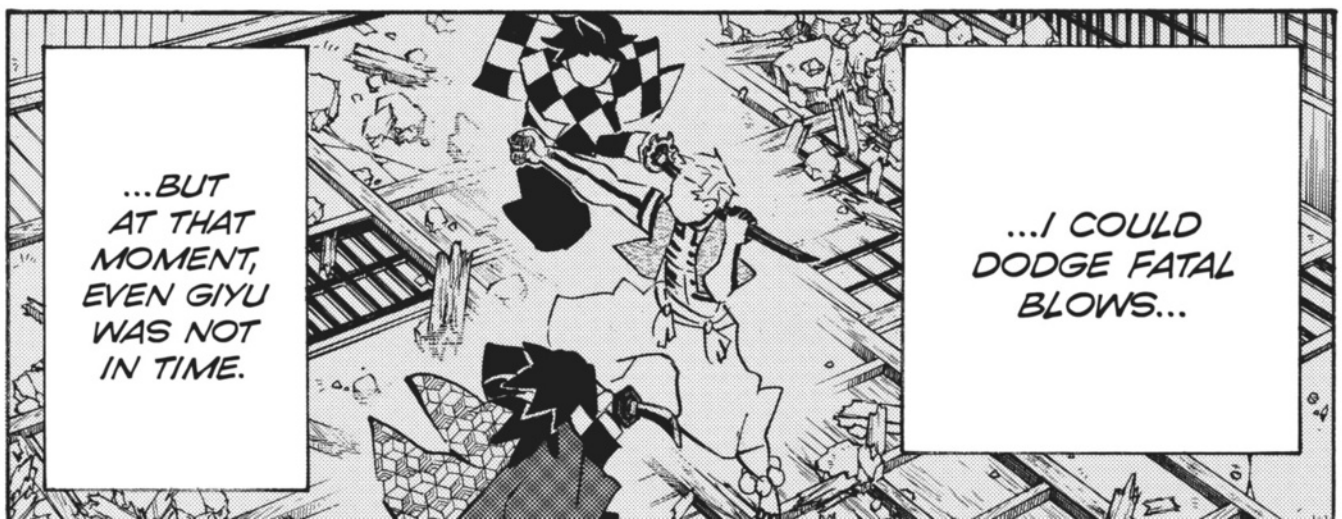

JUST LIKE MY FATHER ...
...AND GRAND-FATHER AND GREAT-GRAND-FATHER.


I KNOW, FATHER.
THAT'S WHY A MOMENT AGO...
WITH UNCEASING EFFORT, YOU CAN EVENTUALLY BREAK THROUGH ANY WALL.
NEVER GIVE UP...
...THINKING THINGS THROUGH.

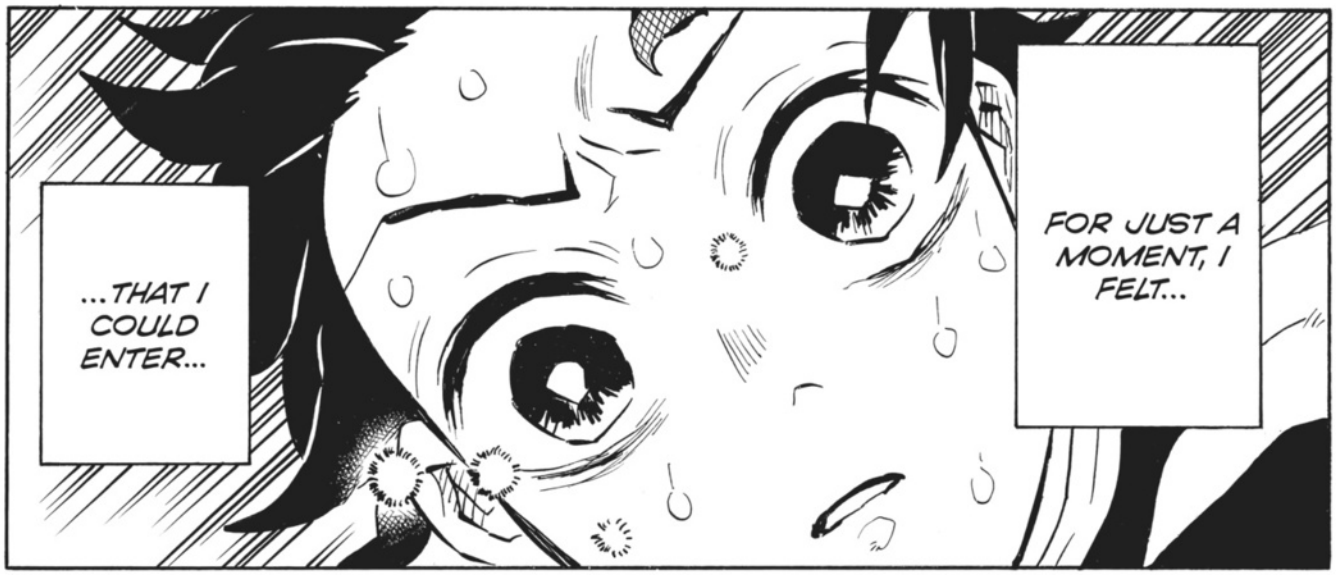

...I WAS ABLE TO DODGE...
...ONE OF AKAZA'S UNERRING BLOWS.

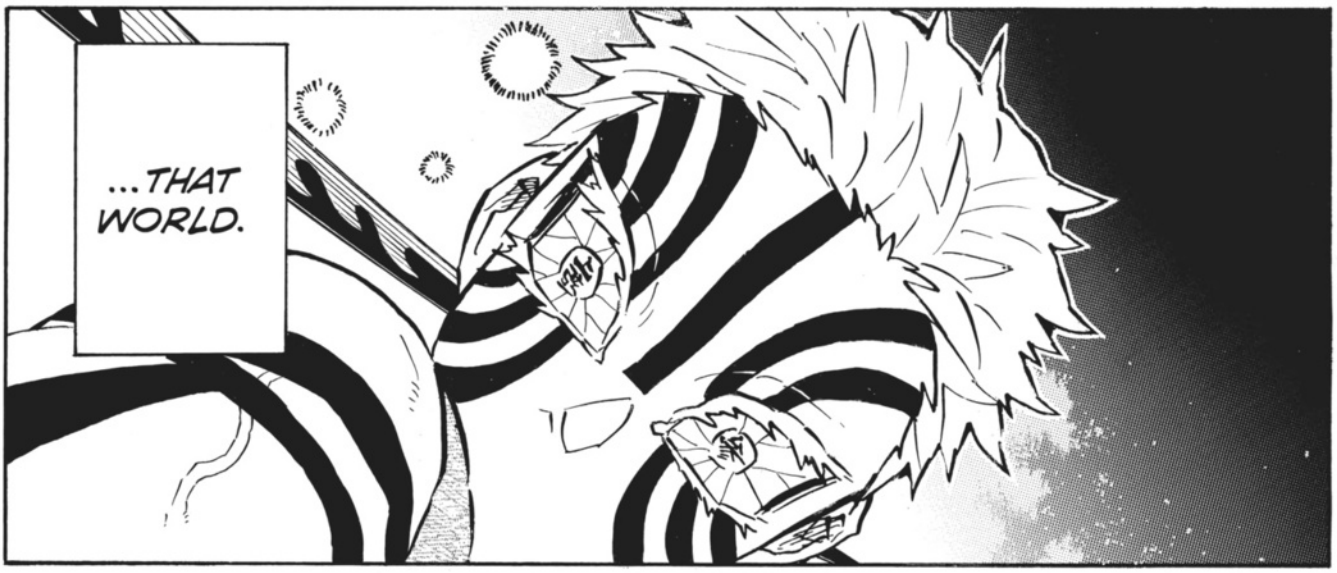
ALTERNAT-ING ATTACKS WITH GIYU...
...AND TAKING MOMENTARY BREATHERS ...


THAT ONE BLOW PROBABLY COULD HAVE KILLED ME.


...BUT AT THAT MOMENT, EVEN GIYU WAS NOT IN TIME.
...I COULD DODGE FATAL BLOWS...

BUT FOR SOME REASON I DIDN'T THINK...
...THAT I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT.


FOR JUST A MOMENT, I FELT...
...THAT I COULD ENTER...


...THAT WORLD.

THE TRANS-PARENT WORLD.

DODGE.
I CONCEN-TRATED ON ONLY THAT AND CLOSED MY OTHER SENSES.

I COULD SEE THROUGH HIS BODY.
IT WAS THE SAME AS WHEN HANTENGU HID IN HIS OWN HEART.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I SAW IT OR SMELLED IT.

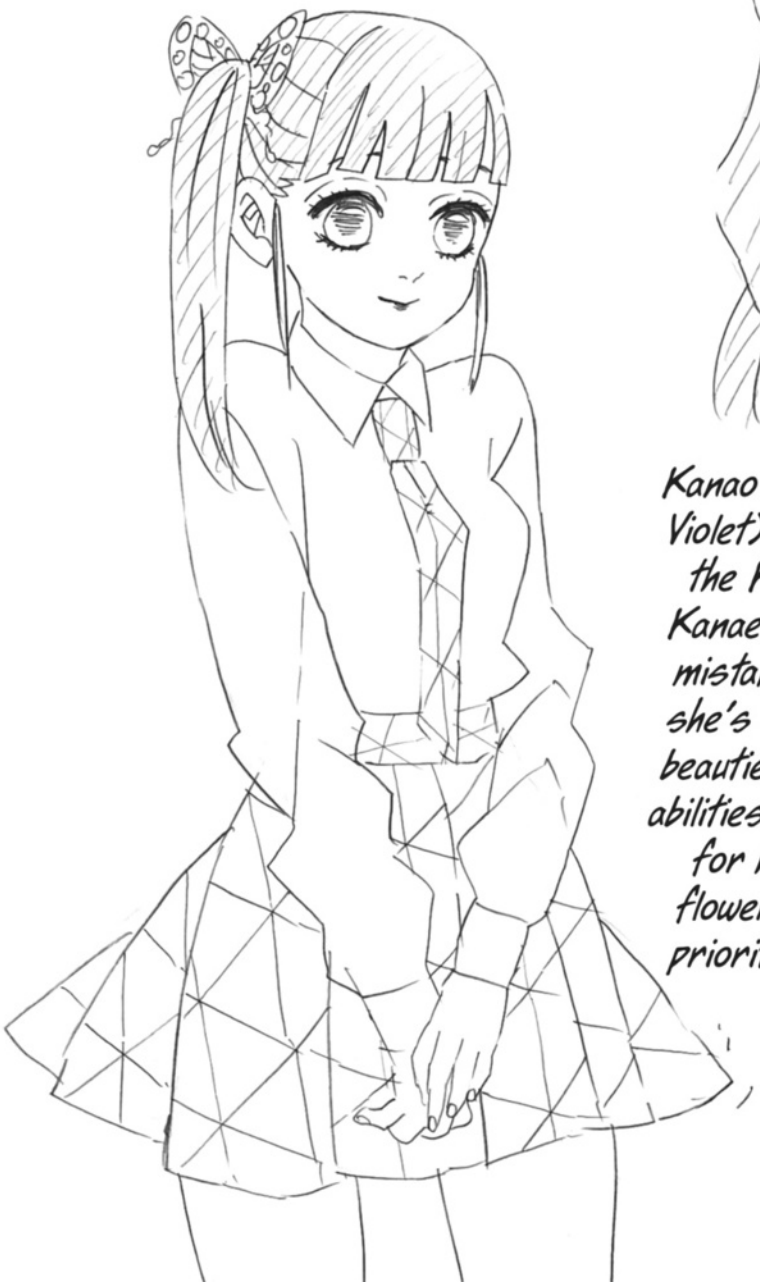
MY BODY MOVED FASTER THAN EVER BEFORE.
HURRY.
WHILE GIYU IS FIGHTING HIM...
I DENIED IT THEN, BUT YOU WERE PROBABLY RIGHT.
I'M SORRY, INOSUKE.

GIYU
...USE THIS EFFECTIVELY AND TAKE DOWN AKAZA!!

Junior High and High School ☆ Kimetsu Academy

Kanae Kocho. Biology instructor, flower arrangement club advisor.

Kanae Kocho, graduate of Kimetsu Academy. In all three years she attended, people considered her one of the school's top three great beauties. She was disgustingly popular among both girls and boys. Even people who spoke poorly of her looked lovestruck when actually talking to her. She's quiet and mysterious and was once seen throwing a seal at the wall and chanting something like "Rin-pyo-to-sha." Maybe she has spiritual powers?

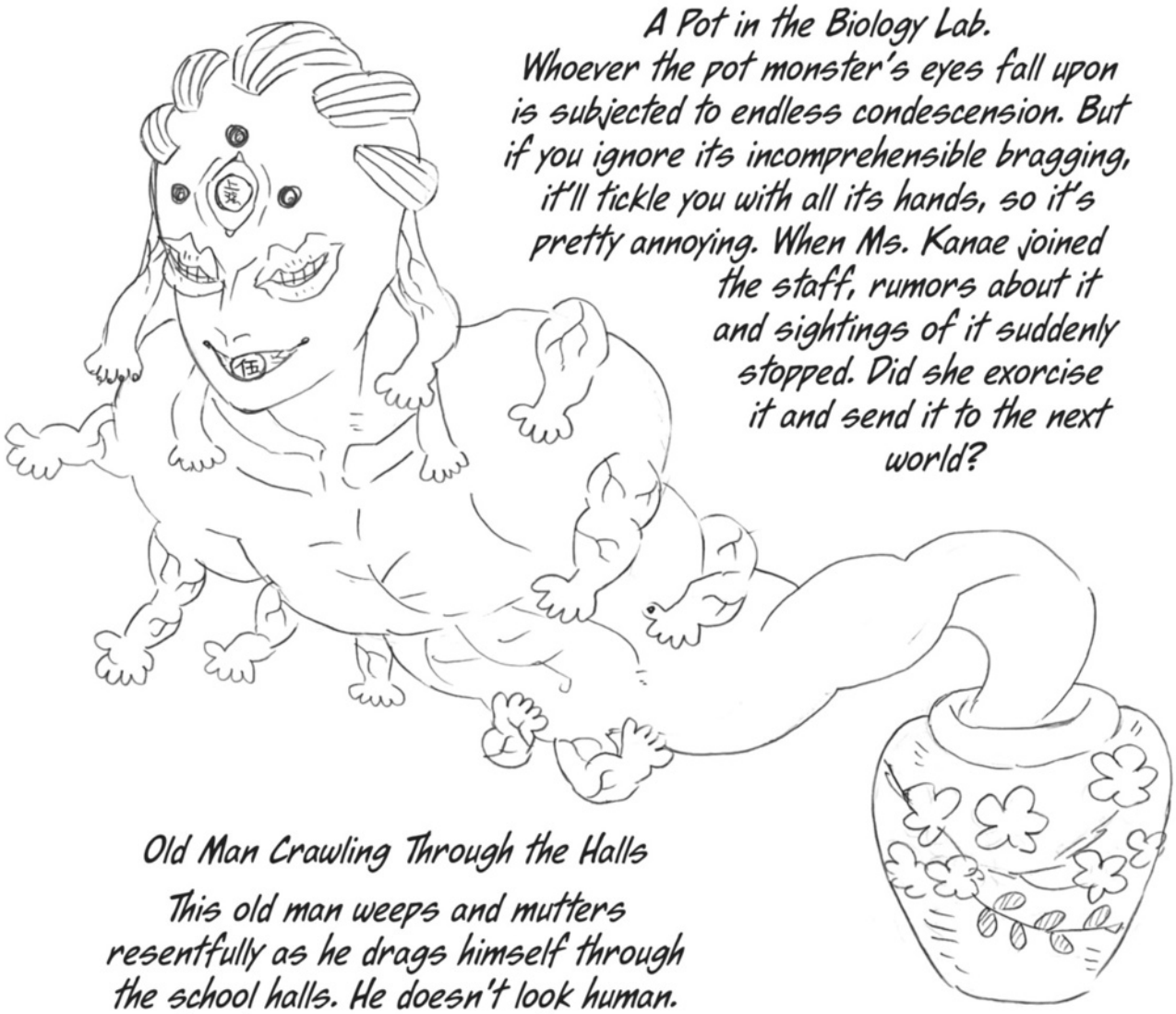


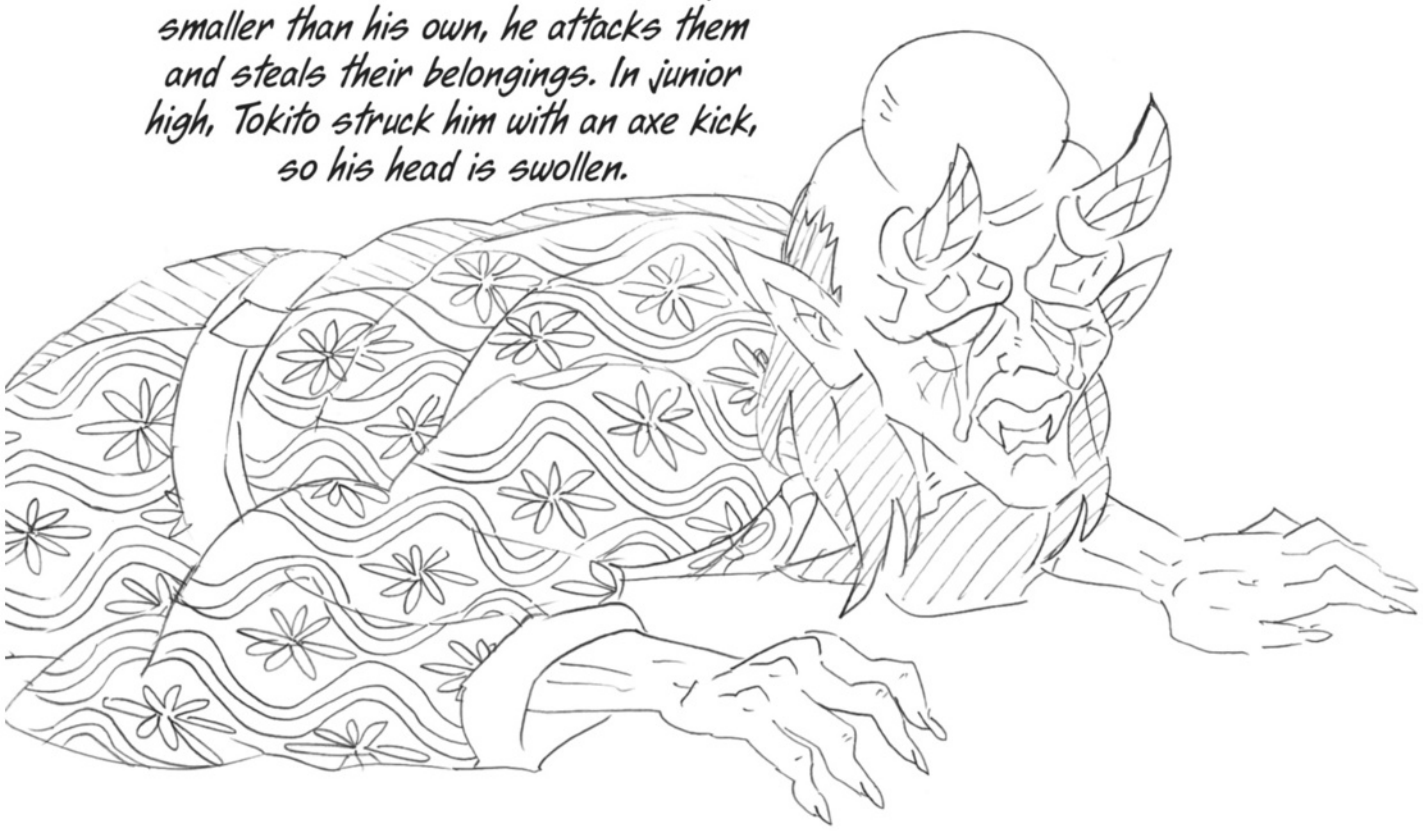
Kanao Tsuyuri (Second-year, H.S., Class Violet). She didn't have any relatives, so the Kocho family took her in. She and Kanae Kocho look alike, so people often mistake them for sisters. At present, she's one of the academy's three great beauties. Due to her outstanding physical abilities, she often gets scouted or asked for help, so she's busy. She's in the flower-arrangement club and wants to prioritize that, so she has a hard time.

Kimetsu Academy Scary Stories

A Pot in the Biology Lab.

Whoever the pot monster's eyes fall upon is subjected to endless condescension. But if you ignore its incomprehensible bragging, it'll tickle you with all its hands, so it's pretty annoying. When Ms. Kanae joined the staff, rumors about it and sightings of it suddenly stopped. Did she exorcise it and send it to the next world?



Old Man Crawling Through the Halls

This old man weeps and mutters resentfully as he drags himself through the school halls. He doesn't look human. When he sees someone with a body smaller than his own, he attacks them and steals their belongings. In junior high, Tokito struck him with an axe kick, so his head is swollen.